

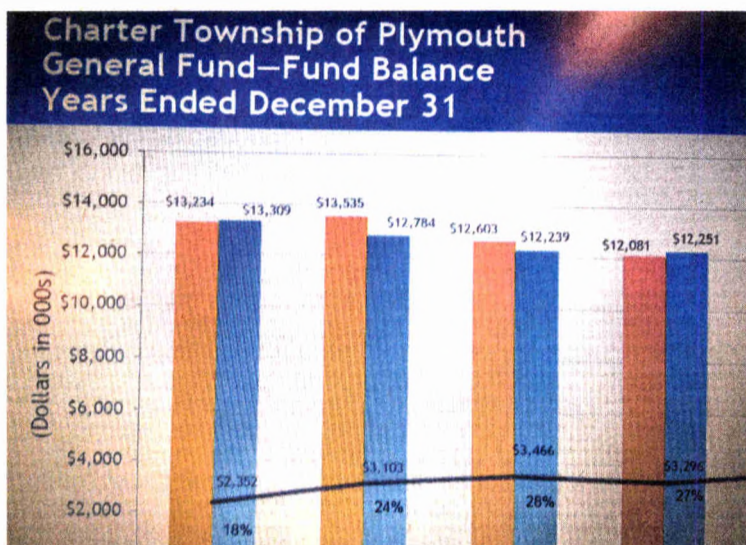


PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014 • hometownlife.com

Better late than never: Plymouth Township gets clean audit report



By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

It arrived more than five months late, but Plymouth Township nevertheless got a clean bill of health for its bookkeeping for 2013.

The audit for the township's 2013 fiscal year – which matches the calendar year – was presented Tuesday to the Board of Trustees by Plante Moran auditors Mark Olejnik and Melanie Crowther. The township got an unqualified opinion, meaning auditors judged that its records accurately reflected its transactions and its financial position.

Paperwork

The audit was due to the state June 30; township officials

blamed the missed deadline on a delay in getting documentation related to money the city of Plymouth owes the township for the city's share of legacy costs related to the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which the communities operated jointly for about 16 years, through the end of 2011.

Officials contend the city owes the township about \$1.3 million in pension costs for retired PCFD firefighters and about \$2.5 million in retiree health care costs. City officials have disputed that number.

Olejnik urged continuing fiscal restraint going forward, even as he acknowledged the economy seems to be improving.

"Just because the econo-

my's turning around doesn't necessarily mean we're out of the woods," Olejnik said.

Supervisor Richard Reaume noted that the township has lost about \$6 million, cumulatively, in revenue sharing from the state in the past seven years. The state began cutting revenue sharing in the early 2000s.

Under budget

In the 2013 general fund, the largest township fund, the auditors said that the township recorded revenue of \$12.126 million and expenditures of \$11.761 million, or nearly \$850,000 less than had been budgeted for the year. The township finished the year

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The Plymouth Township board accepted its audit Tuesday, some five months after it was due.

OBSERVER PHOTO

YULE TIME

Nursery decks out Christmas showroom

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Whether you're nostalgic for Christmas at grandma's, prefer the serenity of spending the holidays in the country or would rather celebrate the season Las Vegas-style, Plymouth Nursery has what you need.

The nursery that has been serving the area's landscaping and home-decorating needs for for more than 80 years – the last 41 at the same location on Ann Arbor Road at Gotfredson – includes one of the best Christmas showrooms this side of Frankenmuth.

Visitors can find fresh-cut and artificial Christmas trees, tree ornaments and lights, decorations of every kind, gift items, Christmas plants and the greenery for making wreaths and garlands, which can also be made on site by the staff.

"We have everything for Christmas – ornaments, lights, everything you need to decorate," said Missy Tuccini, Plymouth Nursery's merchandising manager.

Holiday experience

The store-within-a-store encompasses about 20,000 square feet, including some space in the greenhouse, and



Merchandising manager Missy Tuccini works with a vintage-look Christmas tree. She found the antique Magic Chef stove on Craigslist and cleaned it up to use in the display.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

offers more than shopping: decorating workshops, visits with Santa (over for this season), hot chocolate, Christmas music and more are part of the seasonal experience.

"I really think people come here for the whole Christmas experience," Tuccini said.

Some will go to view the decorations.

This year, the Christmas showroom has 19 decorated trees on display, each with a different theme, the most popular being a circa-1950s tree with hand-blown ornaments,

real metal tinsel and large lights in a variety of colors. A vintage stove completes the scene. "It's grandma's kitchen," Tuccini said.

Other themed Christmas trees include a Las Vegas show-girls tree, trees suited for a rustic country setting, a winter sports tree adorned with miniature sleds and ice skates and a tree that's in the process of being decorated by Santa's elves.

"We have everything from

See NURSERY, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Holiday elves.

Local mosque and church to host racial justice forums

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The protests related to the deaths of Michael Brown in Missouri and Eric Garner in New York have dominated headlines and television coverage worldwide in recent weeks.

A local group, The Beloved Community, has planned two sessions of "A Time for Reflection," to engage the Plymouth-Canton community in sharing and listening on issues related to the protests.

Sessions will be:
» 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at the Muslim Community of

Western Suburbs, 40440 Palmer Road, in Canton.

» 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon Road, in Canton.

"I am following what is going on with Michael Brown and all these things," said Sh Ali Suleman Ali, imam of the

Muslim Community of Western Suburbs. "We have to advocate against crimes against humanity. This is for humanity and to support humanity," Ali said of The Beloved Community sessions this month.

"I'm against any racism," said Ali, who is originally from Ghana and has been in the U.S.

since 1982. He is a U.S. citizen.

"Anybody can come," the imam said of the sessions. "We're trying to advocate this and I think it's going to be a good turnout."

Hasina Abdu of Canton is outreach coordinator for the

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PCAC holiday art sale raises programming funds

The Plymouth Community Arts Council Holiday Art Sale was held recently, despite an early morning ice storm.

PCAC officials said total sales exceeded last year's numbers, with 14 local artists selling hand-crafted and original art pieces. The Western Michigan Ceramics Guild sold more than \$1,000 worth of unique student pottery, with illustrator Nick Bair taking custom orders at the next table for designs that sold out earlier in the morning.

Fourth-grade student Beatrice Savage sold almost all of her colorful hand-knit hats. High school jewelry designer Heather Graham sold two dozen of her hand-painted watercolor pendants and original bracelet designs. As a result of her experience at the PCAC, she was invited to sell at a private home party gift sale in Northville.

Other hot items were felted Nana's knits gloves and mittens, along with Christina Evans' photographic jewelry and Lori Barry's fused glass



PCAC
Christina Evans' photographic jewelry was a hot item at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's holiday sale.

trays and night lights. For additional information, go to www.plymoutharts.com.

The sale featured one-of-a-kind art pieces, with the dual goal of promoting local artists and bringing in funds for PCAC art programming.

"We don't charge for tables as many art fairs do, but work with artists on a 70/30 split on their sales for the day," executive director Lisa Howard said. "It is an arrangement that benefits the artists, who don't have to put out any initial money, but only pay on their actual sales."

Students from the P-CEP National Honor Society served as volun-

teers for the event, helping with customer check-out, carrying customer packages, working the bake sale and making sure the holiday music kept playing. All proceeds from the bake sale went directly to the NHS.

The PCAC has a few pieces of WMU pottery still available for sale on site, along with gift-able art block prints by Tony Roko and Brian Rizza. PCAC gift certificates can also be purchased in its office or over the phone and sent directly to the recipient. For more information, call 734-416-4278 during office hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

NURSERY

Continued from Page A1

the bright and sparkly to natural trees and birch elements," Tuccini said. Everything displayed on the trees can be found at the nursery.

Advance planning

It takes Tuccini about a month to set up the Christmas showroom each year before its November opening and she has several helpers.

"Everyone here is creative and has an eye for it," she said. Planning begins months in advance – Tuccini will be buying decorations and ornaments for the 2015 Christmas showroom in January.

Retro-looking decorations and ornaments, Tuccini said, are especially popular this year. Plymouth Nursery also carries plants that are popular at the holidays, like poinsettias, Christmas cacti, frosty ferns and lemon cypress.

The Christmas store has three more holiday events yet this month:

» A workshop on making holiday porch pots, starting at 1 p.m. Saturday. Materials will start at around \$20.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Christmas display at Plymouth Nursery uses a door that was rescued from a scrap heap and re-purposed.

There are slots available; call to register.

» A Night at the North Pole for children, beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. Crafts, stories, treats and a visit from Mrs. Claus. The event is free.

» A workshop on making Christmas candle centerpieces, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. The fee is \$30 and includes tray, foam, candle, bow,

mixed evergreens, berries, pine cones and glass balls. Call to register.

Plymouth Nursery's phone number is 734-453-5500. See the website www.plymouthnursery.net for details and nursery hours.

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FORUMS

Continued from Page A1

Muslim Community of Western Suburbs. "Because we feel there is a need for a safe space for people to express their thoughts," she said of the session at the mosque.

The mosque has done work with Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion in the past, Abdu said, with the newer Beloved Community group a first-time hosting effort for the mosque. "I'm hoping to get a good turnout," she said, noting school winter break could be a factor. She'd be pleased with 40-50 people.

"We are supposed to support racial harmony," Abdu said, with all people having the right to speak. "Racial issues happen everywhere. We

THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

The sponsoring group's mission statement is: "The Beloved Community exists to facilitate transformation in Southeastern Michigan. To that end, we strive to be a community that is authentic, inclusive and just, where all are equally valued, heard, and honored. Additionally, we seek to engage the larger Plymouth-Canton Community by facilitating opportunities for education, deep reflection, and reconciliation on topics critical to racial justice. Adopting a phrase used frequently by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., our vision of 'Beloved Community' affirms that true unity is possible in our diversity and that healing and reconciliation can and will be achieved.

"Through community and coalition building, organizing, advocacy, and education, we will form sustainable change where we live, work, and are educated by challenging inequality and affecting positive change in our local society, placing emphasis on our school district. While we seek to confront systemic and institutional racism, we recognize, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, that 'justice is indivisible' and all oppressions are intrinsically interconnected. Therefore, we embody our vision in a manner that includes all historically marginalized and underserved groups, merged with the historical majority group to achieve interpersonal relationships that affirm equality, dignity, worth and potential of every person."

should stand up for justice."

She's an American citizen of southeast Asian descent.

The Beloved Community seeks to engage the Plymouth-Canton com-

munity by facilitating opportunities for education, reflection and reconciliation on topics essential to racial justice. The Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor of Geneva Presbyterian, said, "It kind of formed over the summer."

Those recent discussions included white privilege issues and aspects of U.S. history not generally taught, Smith said, as well as equality and justice.

The Beloved Community group isn't faith-based and includes those of no specific faith background. "It's more defined by commitment to do equity work," said Smith, a Canton resident.

He, too, welcomes visitors to the session at Geneva and notes it's not a debate time. "It really is about trying to listen

deeply to others," Smith said, echoing Abdu's reference to a safe space for expressing emotions, to "really listen deeply to others who are sharing."

Smith, who is white and an American citizen, referenced Dr. Martin Luther King's "Beloved Community," noting it doesn't always refer to geography.

"We still could be very divided in how friendships look," Smith said, adding Sunday worship is often deeply divided by race.

He noted white Americans may not understand use of lethal force by law enforcement in the black community. "The response to that is primarily shaped by one's race," the pastor said. Those raising Afri-

can American sons worry about their safety as they grow up.

"We're all part of the same fabric of humanity," Smith said. "I think we need to be committed to justice across racial lines."

He noted the Plymouth-Canton school district is working to address racial issues. Nationwide, there's evidence students of color face harsher discipline in school than their white classmates do, Smith said.

Ali, the imam, noted Friday's two worship times at the Canton mosque draw 600-700 worshippers to each. Friday is the primary worship day in Islam.

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AUDIT

Continued from Page A1

with a fund balance – also called a rainy-day fund – of \$3.661 million, or about 31 percent of expenditures.

Olejnik said a healthy fund balance is needed to handle cash-flow needs and be prepared for economic uncertainty.

"The higher the better, just because you don't know what the situation is going to be like," he said.

Auditors also noted that:

» The majority of the township's 2013 general fund revenue came from property taxes, at \$6.622 million, or about 55 percent. Administrative charges, cable revenue and other fees made up

the second-largest portion, just over \$2.5 million, about 21 percent.

» Sixty-three percent of general fund expenditures went toward public safety: the police department and the fire department and emergency dispatch, which includes prisoner lockup. The public safety total was nearly \$7.09 million. General government was the second largest expenditure, at \$2.86 million, or about 24 percent.

» The unfunded liability for retiree health care is currently estimated at just over \$20 million.

Reaume said that the figure had been \$29 million a few years ago, but that the township was able to whittle that figure down by negotiating retirement benefits with current employees.

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Schostak plans 580-home development in Salem

Rezoning needed for 350-acre Salem Springs property

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Development in Salem Township will increase nearly 25 percent once a proposed project is built.

The Salem Township Planning Commission recommended to the township board to rezone 350 acres south of M-14 between Napier and Gotfredson roads. The land, referred to as Salem Springs, LLC, is owned by Schostak Brothers, which bought the property in 2013 from Johnson Controls.

Schostak is asking Salem to rezone the property from research and research application to a residential development that would include a

maximum of 580 homes and condominiums. The lot sizes are expected to range in width from 70-110 feet. The Salem board must approve the zoning change before it becomes effective.

Water and sewer

"We're waiting for an agreement on water and sewer that needs to be brought to the area," township Supervisor Gary Whittaker said, explaining that the \$20 million water and sewer project would involve Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority. Attorneys for Schostak and Salem are hammering out a deal.

"We need to protect the township on how they are going to bring that infrastructure in," Whittaker added. "This is a major development in Salem and it needs to be done right. I don't want to be forced to bring sewer and water to that area."

Jo Ann Heyl, a community activist, said the Salem Springs development "will be upscale and from the plans shown to the board a very nice one."

"The township board, to their credit, has proceeded with the rezoning thoughtfully and carefully, making sure the township is protected," she said. "While I am in favor of this development, it will increase the number of homes and residents in Salem Township by almost 25 percent and the resulting demand on



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Salem Township property at M-14 and Gotfredson Road may be rezoned, paving the way for a 580-home development.

was on the ballot resulting in the overturning of a rezoning decision by the Salem board. Washtenaw Circuit Court Judge Donald E. Shelton decided last summer the petitions were filed beyond the 30-day requirement of the Zoning Enabling Act and, therefore, the petitions and the referendum election were invalid.

Klein said he followed the filing date given to him by the township and that he plans to appeal the judge's ruling.

There are no plans on the table for development of the other two corners of the quadrant, Whittaker said. A representative from Schostak failed to return phone calls for a comment on the Salem properties.

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infrastructure and services must be carefully planned for."

Schostak also owns the north end of that quadrant, which includes 91 acres and is generally called The Centerpiece. Salem's master zoning plan designates this area to be higher density residential office park. A previous township board

passed a rezoning application submitted by Salem Springs to change the zoning to general commercial.

Legal action

Schostak and Salem residents have gone to court regarding that property. In 2012, a referendum issue, spearheaded by Norm Klein Jr.,

Canton library unveils LEGO dream vehicle contest

LEGOs enthusiasts who have a desire to build a dream vehicle might want to consider a contest sponsored by the Canton Public Library.

Combining the area's automotive legacy, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning and imagination, the library is looking for flashy designs, innovation and impressive engineering - all made from plastic bricks - as it rolls out a January event dubbed the 2015 Dream Vehicle LEGO Contest.

The library is accepting entries from builders in four age categories: kindergarten through second grade; third through fifth grade; sixth through eighth grade; and ninth through 12th grade, plus a special

team division for families or groups of students.

The contest features motorized and non-motorized categories.

"I'm hoping to see kids take the idea of a vehicle into interesting directions, incorporating structure, balance and aesthetic qualities," said Jack Visnaw, information services librarian. "LEGO building allows for the concepts of technology and engineering to be combined with creativity in unique ways. We can't wait to see the entries."

It's not the first time the library has sponsored a LEGO building contest.

"Our past LEGO contests have been very popular," said Laurie Golden, the library's

community relations department head. "We've added a team category this year to encourage the participation of families and groups of kids working collaboratively."

The public will get a chance to view and vote on entries Jan. 10-11 as the Canton Public Library hosts its own auto show to coincide with the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The award reception is at 4 p.m. Jan. 11.

Participants must register to ensure space for their display and projects must be delivered to the library by 9 p.m. Jan. 8. Complete rules and information are available on the main front of the library's website at www.cantonpl.org.

Community Financial warms hearts, homes of needy

Community Financial Credit Union is kicking off another season of the Warming Hearts & Homes charitable campaign, donating up to \$40,000 to local charities in December.

Each year for Warming Hearts & Homes, Community Financial challenges its communities to get social with the credit union. For every Facebook like, tweet or Instagram picture Community Financial receives, the credit union will donate \$25 to select nonprofits in north and southeast Michigan.

This year, The Heat and Warmth Fund, local food pantries, Habitat for Humanity and The Salvation Army Coats for Kids Program will

each receive a portion of \$40,000 during the Warming Hearts & Homes campaign.

Surveys from Michigan residents illustrate the number of people forced to choose between paying for food and clothing or paying for utilities has increased over recent years. With snow already falling for the winter, Community Financial's Warming Hearts & Homes campaign will help make things easier for many families across Michigan.

"Sources all over Michigan are predicting our winter to be just as rough as last year's," marketing manager Sarah Cousineau said. "The harsh winters that

are chilling all of us down to our bones prove that nonprofits whose mission is to keep many families safe and warm need our help."

The entire Community Financial team is proud to support organizations that help fight hunger and provide warmth to Michigan's families during the winter season.

"I'm proud to be a member and employee of a credit union that proactively seeks out ways to better our communities," Cousineau said.

For more information on how Warming Hearts & Homes aids families in Michigan or how to participate in the campaign, go to www.cfcu.org/warms.

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Canton police beef up patrols for holiday season

In an effort to promote holiday safety this season, the Canton Police Department is utilizing a multi-pronged approach to include a combination of high-visibility patrols and encourage citizen awareness to curb the incidents of theft and retail fraud in the community.

To start, this holiday season the Canton Police Department is participating in a multi-agency initiative called Operation Blue Light. This initiative, coordinated through the Dearborn Police Department, calls

for a concentration of high-visibility patrols in retail areas and major shopping thoroughfares as a method of curbing increased crime during the heavy shopping season.

Gearing up for Operation Blue Light, Canton has already been deploying officers to patrol parking lots of retail establishments.

"Last weekend, while patrolling the Walmart parking lot on Michigan Avenue, one of our officers was approached by an employee reporting a theft that had just occurred,"

Special Services Lt. Craig Wilsher said. "The officer recognized the description given as a vehicle he had just passed in the lot and was able to quickly locate it and subsequently arrest two individuals."

Canton police officers will also have an increased patrol presence in neighborhoods throughout the community, watching for suspicious activity with regard to the recent increase of delivered packages being stolen from front porches.

"Last year, we took numerous reports of thefts of packages left by delivery drivers on front porches," Wilsher said. "This year, we are proactively addressing the problem by increasing marked patrols in residential areas."

"In addition," Wilsher said, "we would like to encourage our residents to keep an eye out for suspicious activity in their neighborhoods and report it to our dispatch center immediately at 734-394-5400."

Neighbors looking out for neighbors provide an addition-

al eye on crime in the community and can be a valuable asset to the officers who can't be everywhere, Wilsher said.

Residents are also reminded to keep their own belongings and packages out of plain sight in parked vehicles, whether locked or unlocked. By concealing or removing these items, the opportunity for theft is removed for would-be thieves.

Additional holiday safety tips can be found on the police department's website at www.cantonpublicsafety.org.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Mailbox vandalism

Vandals damaged at least seven mailboxes along Tillotson Drive, near Canton Center and Sheldon Center roads, Friday night and early Saturday morning, Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor confirmed.

It appears the mailboxes may have been damaged with a blunt object, possibly a baseball bat, Traylor said.

Anyone who has information about the vandalism is asked to call the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400.

McDrunken customer

Canton police went to the McDonald's restaurant on Michigan Avenue near Canton Center after an employee reported a drunken man was refusing to leave, a police report said.

Police found the man inside the restaurant with two fifths of vodka - one partially empty - and he appeared disoriented and unsteady on his feet with slurred speech, a police report said.

The incident happened about 1 a.m. Friday. When police arrived, the man initially appeared to be sleeping in a booth. He told police he had nowhere to go.

Police learned the man had a warrant out of St. Clair Shores for unlawful entry. He was arrested and issued a cita-

tion for public intoxication.

Missing pistol permit

A 43-year-old Detroit woman notified police after a concealed pistol license that was supposed to be mailed to her came up missing, a police report said.

She told police Friday she suspected the license may have been mailed to her former Canton residence on Castleside, near Ridge and Warren, where she had lived with her former husband.

She told police she wasn't sure who took the license, but she needed to document it as missing to get a new one.

Bipolar help

Canton authorities helped a bipolar woman get medical help after learning she had taken her father's car without permission.

Police went to a residential street near Palmer and Hagerstey about 6 p.m. Saturday after the 40-year-old woman's father reported she had taken the car without permission, a police report said.

The woman reportedly had not been taking her medications. Police contacted the woman, presumably by cell phone, and she agreed to meet at the police station to turn in the car. She came to the station and police said it was obvious she was in need of help. She

was taken to a hospital.

Fraudulent charges

A 36-year-old Canton woman notified police after someone fraudulently used a Carson's credit card she already had destroyed without using, a police report said.

The woman said someone charged \$1,300 using the card number. She was made aware of it when the bank that holds the card froze her account, amid suspicions the card had been misused.

The woman indicated to police the credit card number had been stolen. She said she had never used the card and had destroyed it without formally closing the account.

Stolen car

A Canton man notified police after a 49-year-old family member took his 2008 Ford Taurus without permission prior to 8:15 a.m. Saturday.

An 81-year-old man reported the incident, saying his vehicle had been parked in his garage before it was taken without permission sometime overnight. He said the relative who took it is alcoholic and is not allowed to drive the car. He told police the relative probably took the car to get alcohol. He said he would assist in prosecution.

- By Darrell Clem

Traffic accident claims Pa. man

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Police in Plymouth Township are investigating a traffic accident that took the life of a 79-year-old man from Camp Hill, Pa.

Linn Lightner, who was in the area visiting relatives, died Sunday at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia of injuries suffered when he was struck by a pickup truck the evening of Dec. 3, police said.

The accident occurred at Ann Arbor Trail and Burger shortly before 9 p.m., Plymouth Township Lt. Bob Antal said. The pickup's driver reported that he had been traveling west on Ann Arbor

Trail in a Ford F-150 and was turning left onto southbound Burger when Lightner was struck, Antal said. The victim suffered head trauma.

The driver, a 69-year-old township man, dialed 9-1-1, stayed at the scene and has been cooperative, Antal said. Neither alcohol nor speed appear to have been factors in the crash, he said.

There were no passengers in the pickup truck and no other witnesses have come forward, Antal said.

Antal said Tuesday that the investigation was nearing completion and its findings will be turned over to the Wayne County prosecutor's office for possible charges.

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Shed, garage burglaries

Outdoor equipment and power tools were taken in a rash of garage and backyard shed burglaries on Plymouth Township's southeast side late last month.

Police department reports indicate there were at least three burglaries on Terry Street and another on Russell Street, between Nov. 23 and Nov. 28. None of the sheds or garages targeted had been locked, the reports said.

Items stolen included a \$1,200 generator from a backyard shed at a house on Terry, a snow-blower and a leaf-blower from the garage of a house on Russell, a tool set and a leaf-blower from the garage of another house on Terry and a weed-trimmer, leaf-blower and generator from the backyard shed of another house on Terry.

The streets are in the area of Ann Arbor Road and I-275.

- By Matt Jachman

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Donor-advised funds are strategies for year-end giving

I was watching a business show and the tease going to commercial was the five things you must do now to save on taxes for 2014.

At this time of year, consumers are swamped with year-end tax advice. Some of the advice I hear or read makes sense. However, other advice makes no sense for the great majority of the people.

The key when you're dealing with taxes is always relate to your individual situation. What is good for 99 percent of the people may not be good for you.

Before you do any tax move, make sure you understand how it will affect your individual situation.

For some people, accelerating charitable contributions into 2014 may make sense, while for others it may be a bad move.

Keep in mind that sometimes the best move is to do nothing. For many people, the time and energy expended in trying to make year-end tax moves is not a very good return on investment. I believe their time would be better spent in other areas.

In a rush to do year-end tax moves, too many people make bad decisions.

A client called me and said after meeting with his accountant, he was going to make a number of large charitable contributions.

The key is that it has to be done by the end of the year.

He really doesn't have time before the end of the year to decide what charities he wants to contribute to.

He told me that he would probably leave it to a charity, not necessarily because that's where he wanted his money to go, but rather for convenience purposes. The charity he named is well-recognized and would love to receive his substantial check. However, I told my client that he is cheating himself by not spending the time to select the proper charity.

People who are generous in nature and give to charities know the feeling that they get when they donate to a cause they feel passionate about. I told him that he is cheating himself by missing out on that feeling. He agreed, but said he didn't have the time before the end of the year to make that decision.

My advice to him was that in certain situations, you can have your cake and eat it, too. As opposed to donating to a charity that he was not passionate about, I recommended that he establish a donor-advised fund.

It used to be that only the very wealthy had the resources to set up foundations and endowments. That is no longer the case. One can establish donor-advised funds these days for as low as \$1,000.

Here is how it works. Money or appreciated securities are transferred into this account. The account is irrevocable and can only be used for withdrawals for charitable purposes. The upside is that as soon as you donate money into one of these funds, you receive your charitable contribution.

I told my client when he establishes this account and deposits the money, he will receive his charitable contribution. He doesn't have to distribute the money until a later date. In fact, he basically can leave the money in that account as long as he chooses, giving him time to pick the appropriate charity.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Over the last few years, donor-advised funds have become very popular. Companies like Fidelity, Vanguard and Schwab have all established these accounts. Of course, not all donor-advised accounts are the same.

As investors, we must be cognizant of the fees involved and, at the same time, the ease of the administration.

For those who would like to make a charitable contribution before the end of the year and you don't know which char-

ity you want to use, consider a donor-advised fund.

Don't forget when donating appreciated securities, you receive a charitable contribution for the full fair market value of the securities, thus avoiding the capital gain tax.

If you're setting up a donor-advised fund or making a charitable contribution of appreciated securities before the end of the year, there is no time to delay. Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth offers a Living Nativity

More than 2,000 years ago, in a little town called Bethlehem, a baby named Jesus was born in a manger "because there was no place for them in the inn."

It's a ubiquitous story that is recognized the world over. Lake Pointe Bible Church is offering a free Living Nativity to the community as a part of the Christmas celebration. The Living Nativity will be offered 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. Lake Pointe Bible Church is located at 42150 Schoolcraft in Plymouth.

Visitors pet the animals, including sheep, goats, a horse and a calf and see the shepherds. They can interact with Mary and Joseph, who will be watching over a live baby Jesus. Sit by the fire and warm up next to it as you experi-



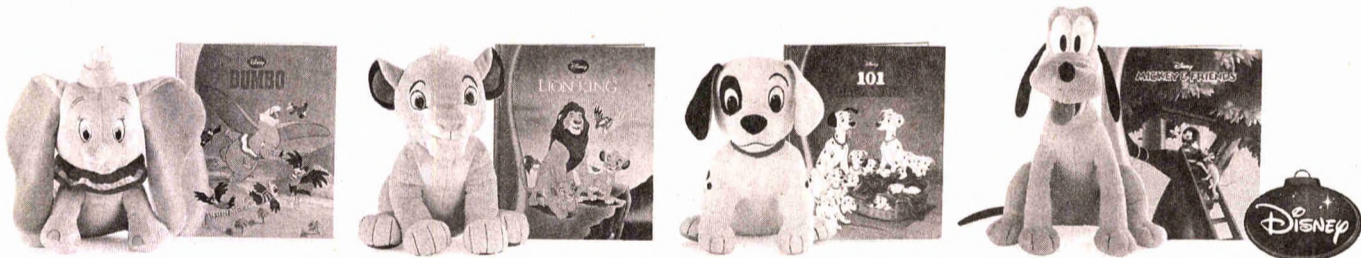
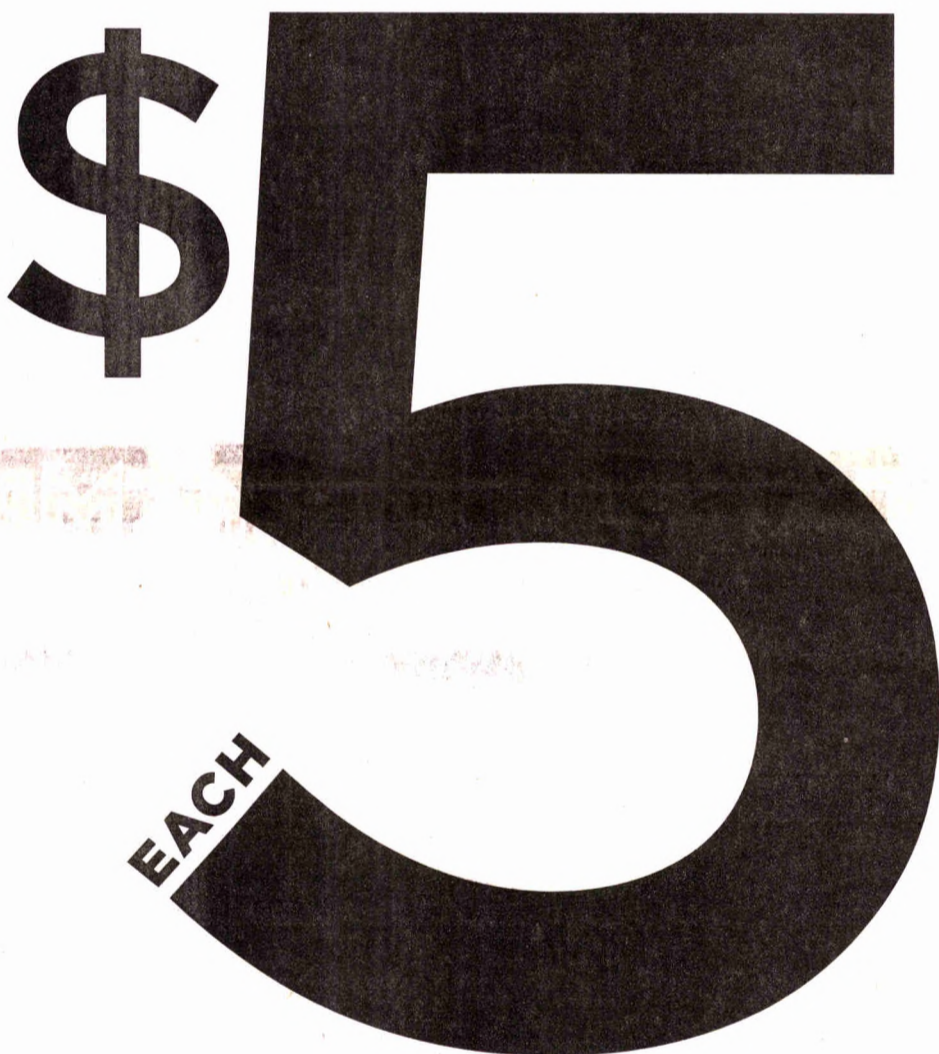
Lake Pointe Bible Church will offer a free Living Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 20.

ence the outdoor nativity in December. Listen to the angels sing the *Hallelujah Chorus*. Refreshments will be offered inside the church.

This is the second annual Lake Pointe Bible Church Living Nativity. The event will be held outside at the back of the

church. Visitors are asked to dress warmly. Parking is available in the rear lot. Additional parking is accessible in the front of the church, with overflow parking across the street at the Plymouth Senior Station located at 42375 Schoolcraft.

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KOHL'S



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Here comes Trouble. (From left) Rina Devarajan, Danielle Garrard, Lizzie Nagy and Brielyn Poole show that they got the good stuff for the Toys For Tots program.

SPARE A DIME?

Hoben's Pocket Change program buys Toys for Tots

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

There must be a lot of pockets in the Hoben Elementary School family.

Hoben third-graders collected more than \$800 in this year's Pocket Change for Presents program, the long-standing school effort to collect money to buy presents for the annual U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

Students were combing the toy aisles Tuesday at the Canton Meijer, with the help of teachers and parents, filling shopping carts with some \$1,600 worth of toys, thanks to a generous matching donation from the folks at Meijer.

"They work with us every year," third-grade teacher Renae Pierson said of Meijer. "We've had a great partnership with them. ... Kids always get more for their money."

The students collected the donations by traveling classroom to classroom with Power Point presentations, going on the school's TV news and just selling the program school-wide. Collection buckets are also stationed in classrooms throughout the schools.

Donations, which topped last year's by more than \$300, came from students in all grades, K-5.

"It's a good program,

third-grader Brett Flaskamp said: "It helps people who don't have much money so they aren't without presents at Christmas. It feels great."

The folks at Meijer kicked in a matching \$800 donation and made sure some things were on sale to make the program work even better and provide more presents.

Meijer officials believe the program benefits everyone.

"It's a good way to give back to the community," said Marti Ryan, pricing inventory team leader at the Canton Meijer. "Hoben is right down the street, so a lot of these kids probably shop in here. At Christmas time, a program like this is very special."

Pierson said the advent of the Power Point, the chance to be on TV and just a general willingness to help others helped make this year's program the most successful ever.

"We got the kids more into the classrooms," Pierson said. "They get excited about doing the Power Point presentations and getting out and talking about it."

When it was over, third-grader Maryam Mahmood summed up the feeling from helping others pretty well.

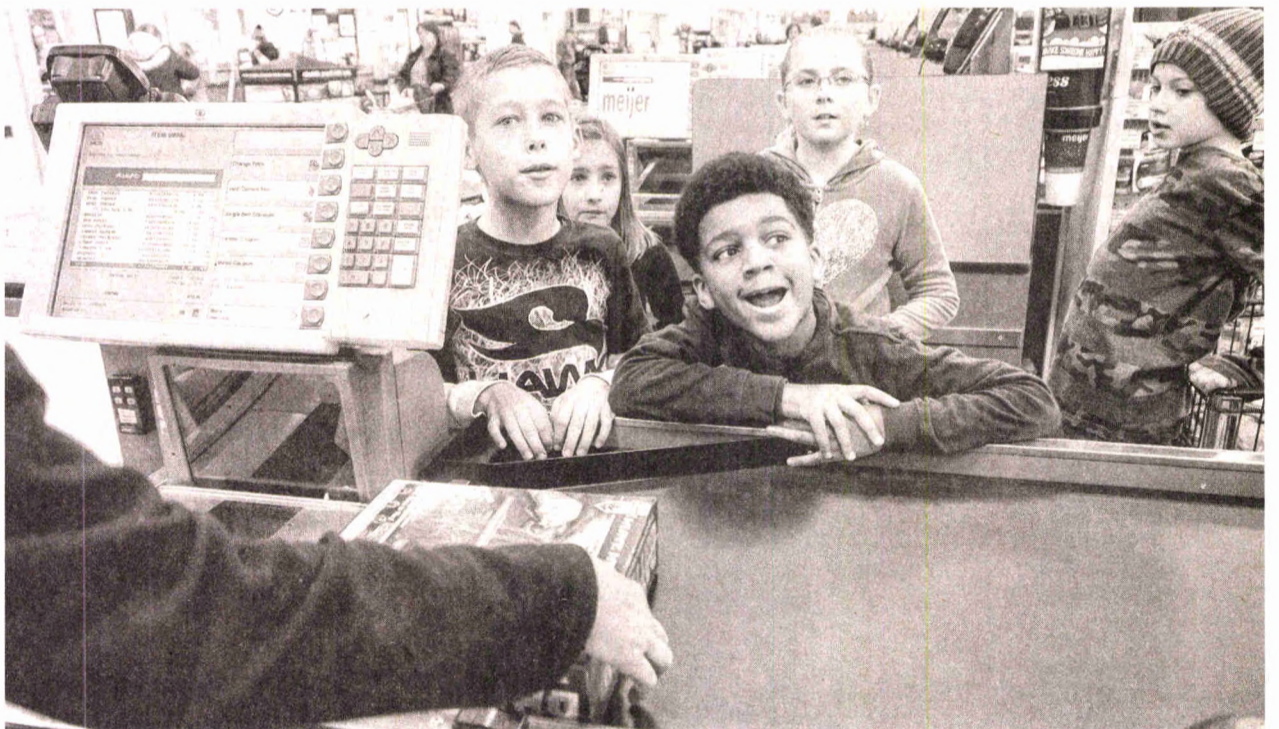
"It feels awesome," she said.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hoben Elementary third-graders (from left) Joey Miller, Joey Meier and Gavin LaRue push their cart toward the checkout.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brendan Borsh (from left), Madison Borsh, Titus Quinn, Chloe Scarpace and Isaac Denis watch the total bill for toys grow.



BRAD KADRICH

Hoben mom Beth Yaekle totals up the value of a cart full of toys.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christian Flores (from left), Aiden MacMillan and Cullen Geans take a break from shopping.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maryam Mahmood (from left), Brett Flaskamp and Mary May place their items on the belt at the checkout.

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Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln vehicles are luxurious by any standard at Varsity Lincoln

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Pre-Owned sale continues this December. The dealership offers no Santa, no presents, just great deals. More than 150 Lincoln Certified Pre-Owned vehicles are on-site, ready to drive off the lot for as low as \$12,995.

Hurry over to Varsity Lincoln these next three days to catch the deals:

» Friday, Dec. 12, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

» Saturday, Dec. 13 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» Monday, Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

This year, Varsity Lincoln celebrated its 20th anniversary and won six prestigious automotive awards: the Triple Crown Award, Lincoln Leaders of Excellence, President's Award, Ford One Hundred Club, CPO Sales Leadership and Premier Club.

Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln vehicles come with many benefits, including:

» A meticulous, 200-point inspection by factory-trained technicians

» 6-year/100,000-mile comprehensive warranty coverage

» Complimentary 24/7 roadside assistance

Dealership provides The Varsity Lincoln Advantage

Varsity Lincoln team members are selected based upon their demonstration of an unwavering attitude of the importance of customer care and satisfaction. This has earned the dealer the honor of being the No.1 volume Lincoln Dealer in the world for 17 consecutive years, based on the 2013 Total New Retail Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction Lincoln sales report. They also offer a newly remodeled showroom, indoor delivery area and service reception aisle.

"I have the MKS and I love, love, love the technology in it," exclaimed Lincoln MKS owner



This Certified Pre-Owned 2010 Lincoln MKZ Ultimate FWD is one of more than 150 Lincoln Certified Pre-Owned vehicles available during Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Pre-Owned sale.

Latanya Tarleton, who has been a customer at Varsity Lincoln for 16 years. "I get the best service here. I never have to worry about anything."

"I have an MKZ from Varsity Lincoln, I've had it for about a year now. It's a beautiful interior, a beautiful exterior, it handles well on the road and gives me good gas mileage!" said Lincoln MKZ owner Gary Trudeau. "I love this place. I wouldn't even consider buying a car from anybody else!"

Jason Towe told us why he got into a Lincoln, stating "I definitely love the comfort and the sportiness of the Lincoln. The cost was a big factor for me, it was actually cheaper than my last car I owned, and I feel I'm getting a better quality car for what I'm paying!"

Certified Pre-Owned vehicles offer great value

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Certified Pre-Owned, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," conveyed Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director. "The 100,000-mile free bumper-to-bumper warranty that comes alongside all Certified Pre-Owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost, exclusively at Varsity Lincoln!"

"Loaded with features, a Lincoln will satisfy any customer. Certified Pre-Owned vehicles not only provide a

peace of mind on the road, but also provides a combination of sporty and luxury. Benefits include FWD or AWD, Eco-Boost, Navigation, Bluetooth, SYNC, an adaptive suspension, a panoramic roof, and heated and cooled seats for comfort, just to name a few.

"Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind from knowing that Lincoln vehicles will hold their value. Any depreciation has already been taken on by the previous owner. Plus, the advanced styling and dependability are advantageous add to a Lincoln vehicle's value.

"The warranty is the key with all these cars. With Certified Pre-Owned, you get the best from Varsity Lincoln," Law said.

Certified Pre-Owned financing is available for as low as

0.9% APR.*

"Leasing or buying from the number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," Law said. "Our dealership is ready for any situation that may arise, whether it is special financing or a specific request. We can handle every unique situation."

"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are, before, during and after the sale."

*As low as 0.9% APR for up to 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.

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Welcome Dr. Irby-Johnson

The St. Mary Mercy Medical Group would like to extend a warm welcome to NiJuanna Irby-Johnson, MD. She joins our medical group of over 25 primary care and specialty physicians as an internal medicine physician. She has more than 10 years of experience in adult primary care, preventative care and management of chronic disease.

Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

stmarymercy.org/smmm

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**Event
 Hours:**

Friday 12/12/14 8:30am-6pm • Saturday 12/13/14 8:30am-5pm
 Monday 12/15/14 8:30am-9pm



*Based on 2013 Total Certified Pre-Owned Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction per Lincoln Sales Report. *As low as 0.9% APR for up to 48 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details. *Price does not include tax, title, license and dealer fees due at point of purchase. Inventory and pricing subject to change. See Varsity Lincoln for details. Offers end 12/31/14.

Lions Club honors Canton businesses

Members of the Canton Lions Club recently paid tribute to Holiday Market and L. George's Coney Island, Canton businesses that have assisted them in fundraising throughout the years.

Club members presented a plaque thanking each business for helping the Lions to raise funds.

"These businesses understand the needs in the community and assist the Lions Club in any way they can," Lions member Bill Van Winkle said. "Assisting the blind and hearing impaired is Lions primary goals; however, you'll find them working with kids who have multiple handicaps, giving scholarships to handicapped youth to attend college or checking the sight of children through a program called Kid Sight."

Van Winkle said Holiday Market has offered its facilities many times, which enabled club members to seek contributions from customers as they come and go while shopping. The Canton Lions Club counts on owners John and Lisa Pardington to allow it to collect contribution from their customers, who are more than willing to give what they can.

L. George's Coney Island is a big supporter of the Lions Club and the worthy work it performs in the community, Van Winkle said. In the coldest days of working by the entrance door, the



Lions Club Director John Anthony (from left), Lions Club President Bob Boyer, Holiday Market owner Lisa Pardington and past District Gov. Bill Van Winkle.



Lions Club Director John Anthony (from left), Past District Gov. Bill Van Winkle, L. George's owner Dila Lucaj, waitress Annita and Lions Club President Bob Boyer.

staff will bring hot coffee out to the club member collecting. "Owners Jay and Dila Lucaj are always willing to assist the Lions in this work," Van Winkle said. "They understand that the community needs help and are willing to let the

Lions solicit contribution from their customers."

For additional information about the Lions Club, contact Van Winkle at 734 254-9404, at govbill1@wow-way.com or Cantonlions.org.

Financial expert to headline Plymouth chamber breakfast

Financial expert Curt Whipple of Plymouth's C. Curtis Financial will be the featured speaker at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's annual Economic Forecast Breakfast, 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Plymouth Township.

Whipple, who has appeared on more than 40 radio and TV stations, will give the audience a glimpse of what to expect from the economy in 2015 and beyond. According to chamber officials, Whipple's forecast will highlight:

» What's the economic outlook for 2015?
» What does our nation's spending and debt mean for our financial



Whipple

bear market and what should you consider doing in your portfolio?

» Is gold something that should be part of your investment diversity?

In 1986, Whipple formed C. Curtis Financial Group, an independent advisory firm. He is the author of the *Retiree Lifeline - How to Get the Government Out of Your Pocket* and speaks frequently at financial industry outlets and com-

future?
» Will we see rising interest rates soon?

» Are we in a bull market or a bear market and what should you consider doing in your portfolio?

munity groups.

Congressman-elect David Trott will speak for 10 minutes prior to Whipple's presentation. Trott will talk about what to expect in the first 90 days of the new Congress and what he plans when first arriving in Washington.

The cost to attend the breakfast is \$13. Hilton Garden Inn is located at 14600 Sheldon, just north of the M-14 exit ramp.

To RSVP for this breakfast, contact teri@plymouthmich.org or call 734-453-1540.

"These breakfasts usually attract 60-70 people from all different industries and provide a great networking opportunity," chamber President Wes Graff said.

Johnson Controls project makes lighter, safe seats for vehicles

Plymouth-based Johnson Controls is reducing the use of metals in vehicle seat structures by replacing them with multi-material systems in its CAMISMA (carbon-amide-metal-based interior structure using a multi-material system approach) research project.

These seats are more than 40 percent lighter than conventionally manufactured seat structures and equally as safe.

For this cutting-edge work, Johnson Controls, a global multi-industrial company, received this year's CLEPA (European Association of Automotive Suppliers) Innovation Award in the "Green" category. According to the jury, the project represents an "outstanding, future-

oriented solution for sustainable carbon dioxide reduction."

"Although carbon-fiber products generally offer outstanding characteristics, such as great strength and design flexibility, they are too expensive for use in the large-scale series production of vehicles," said Andreas Eppinger, group vice president technology management, Johnson Controls Automotive Experience. "With CAMISMA, our goal was to create cost-efficient, sustainable access to carbon-fiber-based materials systems."

This was achieved by an innovative industrial manufacturing process for volume production with about 200,000 units per production line, al-

lowing for the first time the highly concentrated, efficient use of carbon fiber, while at the same time meeting all safety requirements.

The results of an initial rear-impact crash test demonstrated that the CAMISMA seat prototype satisfied all of the strength requirements of current seats built with a metal structure in large-scale series production.

In addition to significant weight savings, CAMISMA offers a further advantage: The manufacturing steps required in assembly are substantially reduced through the number of attachment parts needed, which also saves cost.

These seats will be available in vehicles in 2019.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Snyder appointments

Plymouth and Canton residents have figured prominently in a series of appointments made recently by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Mahima Mahadevan of Canton was one of three people Snyder appointed to the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. The 21-member commission housed in the Michigan Department of Civil Rights advances the full and equal participation of Asian Pacific Americans in Michigan.

"(Mahima and the others are) talented and experienced ... and I look forward to the work they will do on this commission," Snyder said.

Members will serve four-year terms to expire Nov. 30, 2018. Their appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Meanwhile, Snyder also appointed Andrew Mac of Plymouth to the Michigan Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. Housed within the Michigan Department of Community Health, the 11-member board advises the department on issues affecting prescription drug coverage for its various health care programs.

"These appointees are experienced health care professionals and I appreciate the insights they bring to the committee," Snyder said.

Appointees will serve two-year terms expiring Oct. 1, 2016. Their appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Planning honor

Plante Moran's Jeffrey Campbell has earned the Certified Exit Planning Adviser designation from the Exit Planning Institute.



CANTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Grand opening

A ribbon-cutting was held recently by Express Shipping & Packaging of Canton to announce its grand opening. Express Shipping & Packaging of Canton is located inside America's Budget Storage at 40671 Joy Road. Family members, customers, employees, chamber members and residents were all among the attendees.

Campbell, a Plymouth resident and partner at Plante Moran specializing in serving owner-managed manufacturing and distribution companies, received the designation after completing an intensive five-day executive style MBA program at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.

"Plante Moran applauds Jeff for the hard work and commitment he displayed in earning this prestigious designation," said Kevin Flatery, managing partner of Plante Moran's Ann Arbor office. "The skills he's developed through the Exit Planning Institute's rigorous education program will help Jeff advise clients on the succession planning process and the financial, legal and tax questions involved in transitioning a privately owned business."

Campbell joins an elite group of business advisers who have received this designation and are a part of the international community of the Exit Planning Institute. The CEPA program is the most widely accepted and endorsed program in the world.

Active professionally, Campbell is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. He has a bachelor of administration degree in accounting from Eastern Michigan University and a master of science in taxation degree from Walsh College.

Toy collection

Once again this holiday season, Gardner-White locations will be collection sites for the Toys for Tots program.

Collection boxes for new and unwrapped toys are available at all 11 Gardner-White locations throughout metro Detroit, including the Canton location at 39453 Ford Road. Shoppers can drop off toys through Dec. 19.

The donated toys will be distributed to children in need as part of the Toys for Tots program, founded by the U.S. Marine Corps.

For more information regarding the Toys for Tots program, go to www.toysfortots.org.

For more information on Gardner-White or to locate a store, go to www.gardner-white.com.

Wayne County Lightfest 21st Annual

Featuring more than 55 giant animated holiday themed displays!

Now through Dec. 31 (Closed Christmas Day)
Mon. - Thurs. 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri. - Sun. 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
\$5 fee per vehicle

- Several new displays added this year!
- All in LED lights!
Entire show has been converted to LED lights.
- Toy Night Tuesdays
Dec. 2, 9 and 16
Bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee. Toys will be donated to the Wayne County Family Center.
- Santa's Workshop
Now through Dec. 23 take photos with Santa and don't forget to bring your letters!

For more information, please visit www.waynecounty.com

DTE Energy, Consumers Energy, Entertainment Affairs, FOX 2, MCMBA, HITEC, McDonald's, OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC, hometownlife.com

Village Theater will host fiber art exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will exhibit the collected works of the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild in the Gallery@VT through Jan. 7.

The Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild is composed of a group of artists who champion the enjoyment of fiber arts through information and demonstration. Works on display include a wide variety of fiber art, such as: tapestries, wearable art, textiles, fiber paper, baskets, sculpture and surface design. Techniques utilized in the creation of some of these works made of natural and synthetic fibers include weaving, spinning, dyeing, quilting, knitting, felting and beading.

These one-of-a-kind textile creations contain unique color, pattern and textural details and can provide warmth and texture to enhance any environment as they take you on a textile journey that may be powerful or subtle, as well as lyrical and dramatic.

Originally founded in 1956 as a club for weavers, the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild provides opportunities for fiber artists to meet and exchange ideas and to learn about fiber art through lectures and workshops. This group also participates in the Ann Arbor State Street Area Art Fair. For additional information about the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild, go to www.annarborfiberarts.org.

This current art exhibit at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday; during public performances at the theater; and by appointment by calling 734-394-5300. The Gallery is closed holi-



'Desert Flowers,' by artist Anne Flora, features merino wool, assorted fabric, yarn and embroidery cotton.

days.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, is a regional center for the arts that offers the magic of live theater, soul-stirring music, the thrill of the dance and the enjoyment of fine art exhibitions and events, in addition to providing a home for several cultural organizations and community groups. For more information about this latest exhibition, call 734-394-5300 or go to Cantonvillage-theater.org.

Livonia school chief named tri-county Superintendent of the Year

Randy Liepa, superintendent of Livonia Public Schools, has been named the Region 9 Superintendent of the Year for 2015 by the Michigan Association of School Administrators.

Region 9 includes Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Liepa will be formally recognized Monday, Dec. 15, during the 7 p.m. regular meeting of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education at the LPS Administrative Building, board meeting room, 15125 Farmington Road.

The regional Superintendent of the Year Award is presented by each of the nine regions in the MASA organization to an individual who has shown tremendous effort and dedication to enriching the lives of children and the community as a whole.

According to the MASA, Liepa "is recognized for his strong, innovative and approachable leadership of Livonia Public Schools." The organization cites student achievement data that includes standardized test scores that are consistently above state averages and Liepa's leadership in piloting academic programs that ensure groups of students with specific needs are given the



Dr. Randy Liepa is in his 11th year as superintendent of Livonia Public Schools. He is being recognized by Region 9 of the Michigan Association of School Administrators for "his strong, innovative and approachable leadership."

possible, keeping cuts out of the classroom. He has shown the leadership strength to consolidate schools where necessary and surrounding districts have sought his counsel on how to successfully implement such measures in their districts."

According to board members Johnson, Colleen Burton, Dan Centers, Tammy Bonifield, Randy Roulier and Dianne Laura, Liepa is a humble leader who frequently defers the accolades that he receives to the many staff and volunteers who work with him to continue to put the education of all students first.

Liepa holds a bachelor of arts degree in accounting from Hillsdale College, a master's degree in educational leadership from Wayne State University and a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership from Michigan State University.

He serves on several community and state organizations, such as Tri-County Alliance, Michigan Association of School Administrators, Wayne County Association of School Administrators, Livonia Family YMCA, LPS Education Foundation, Westland Community Foundation and others.

resources to reach their full academic potential.

Liepa is in his 11th year as superintendent of Livonia Public Schools and served as assistant superintendent for nine years prior to that. He has an expertise in finance, which was noted by Mark Johnson, president of the Board of Education, as being an asset to the district.

"Superintendent Liepa has kept our district ahead of the economic curve over the last several years with creative cost saving and revenue enhancements," Johnson said. "His efforts to consolidate programs and services have kept our district financially sound, while, whenever

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR



PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Blanket donations

Workman Elementary students in Michelle Krug's second-grade class and Melanie Gray's fourth- and fifth-grade classes got together to do a buddy community service project. The kids, along with parents, made 19 fleece blankets for Project Linus. The blankets will be donated to kids and teens in metro Detroit, specifically those in foster care and in semi-independent living.

BRAIN NEUROBICS

Date/Time: Second and third Thursday, January through May 2015, 11 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

Details: Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Waltonwood Cherry Hill.

Contact: To sign up, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Dates: Through Dec. 19

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council

Details: The Plymouth Community Arts Council is offering gift certificates for sale. They are available in any denomination and good for all PCAC classes, workshops, camps and programs. PCAC gift certificates can be purchased at the PCAC office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Contact: For more information, call 734-416-4278.

BASELINE FOLK BENEFIT

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 20, 7-9:30 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The BaseLine Folk Society's benefit concert for the Plymouth Goodfellows features The Sorenson Family. The band features Stephanie and Chris Sorenson, with Chris' father Wayne on bass. The host will be Rick Pitts, who will sing a couple of tunes and introduce the performers (there are 10 open mic slots).

Contact: For more information, contact Scott Ludwig, president of BaseLine Folk Society, by email at sctuludwig@aol.com or call 734-453-0869.

LIBRARY CONCERT

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The Friends of the

Plymouth District Library present Lee Murdock and The Christmas Tree Ship Concert: Great Lakes Maritime History. Murdock combines music and stories of the inland seas, Great Lakes and port cities of the early 1900s. Murdock will also share his favorite holiday songs as part of the magical season. His song about the Rouse Simmons is the centerpiece to this concert, a story and song of hope and tragedy, of loss and renewal, as the famous ship struggled into a raging winter storm in November 1912.

Contact: Register for this free concert in advance by contacting the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibrary.org

FOOD/WINTER WEAR

Dates: Through Dec. 18

Locations: Nico & Vali, The Sardine Room, Fiamma Grille, Compari's, the Post Local Bistro, Sean O'Callaghan's, Penn Grill, E.G. Nick's and the Ironwood Grill in downtown Plymouth

Details: Diners at any of the participating restaurants who donate either non-perishable food or winter wear can receive 5 percent off their bills (up to \$50) in a drive to help the Plymouth Salvation Army in a drive being sponsored by the *Metro Times*.

Contact: For more information, call The Salvation Army at 734-453-5464.

BAREFOOT PRODUCTION

Dates/Times: Sunday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.

Location: Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Details: Barefoot Productions presents *The Desk Set*, a comedy by William Marchant which inspired the movie starring Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. All seats are \$15.

Contact: For tickets, call 734-560-1493 or go to www.just-gobarefoot.com.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: This New Year's Eve event features Judie Cochill with the Ron Kischuk Trio. The group features Judie Cochill on vocals, Ron Kischuk on trombone, Tad Weed on piano and Jeff Halsey on bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Construction Bid Package 5A, consisting of:

- Partial Pavement Replacement at Transportation and Maintenance Buildings
- P-CEP Varsity Field Synthetic Turf Replacement and Running Track Resurfacing
- P-CEP Varsity Field Lighting and Sound System Replacement

will be received at the office of Mr. Patrick Briggs, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

- 102: Asphalt Paving / Site Utilities
- 143: Electrical Stadium Lighting / Sound System
- 166: Synthetic Turf Replacement
- 167: Track Surfacing

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com free of charge by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit. **The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.**

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

Publish: December 4, 2014

Legal Notice Charter Township of Plymouth 2014 Winter Taxes

Winter Taxes are due December 1, 2014 and payable through February 17, 2015 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the **Treasurer's Office.** After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive. The **Treasurer's Office will be open December 31, 2014 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.**

RON EDWARDS
Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth
9955 Haggerty Rd
Plymouth, MI 481710

Publish: December 11, 2014
December 28, 2014

LO-0000224038 3x2.5

PUBLIC NOTICE

Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 77-foot Monopole Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, 48170, Latitude: 42-22-54.1 N, Longitude: 83-26-16 W. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A0928053.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Kimberley Bouchard, G2 Consulting Group, LLC, 1866 Woodslee Street, Troy, Michigan 48063, Phone: 248-680-0400, E-Mail: kbouchard@g2consultinggroup.com.

Publish December 11, 2014

LO-0000224153 3x3.5

LO-0000223928 3x8

OUR VIEW

Deck the holiday halls safely

It's that time of year, when families deck the halls with plenty of indoor and outdoor lights and wrap their Christmas trees in bright and twinkling bulbs. It's also that time of the year when the potential for accidents and home fires makes the need for safety awareness and working smoke alarms paramount.

There can be no dispute smoke alarms save lives. According to the National Fire Protection Association, the risk of dying in house fires is cut in half when working smoke alarms are installed in a home.

The key phrase is "working smoke alarms." It is incumbent on all property owners to ensure that smoke alarms are operable. The NFPA chalks up smoke alarm failures to missing, disconnected or dead batteries. People are most likely to remove or disconnect batteries because of nuisance activations. Sometimes the chirping to warn of a low battery is interpreted as a nuisance alarm.

Today, smoke alarms are available with lithium batteries, making them maintenance-free and good for 10 years. They can be purchased at most hardware or home improvement stores.

For sure, do not rely on electrically powered smoke



Candles should not be left burning while unattended.

U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION

alarms. When the power goes out, so does the life-saving alarm. Remember that, according to local code, smoke alarms are to be located in all commons and sleeping areas on each level of the home.

Parents must be sure to share a fire escape plan with children and all holiday guests. It's imperative to have two ways out of the house. Make sure all halls, stairs and doors are illuminated and free of clutter to ensure a safe and speedy escape.

The NFPA conducted a survey that covered 2007-11 and shows that when smoke alarms were present in fires

considered large enough to activate them, they operated 86 percent of the time. More than one-third – or 37 percent – of home fire deaths resulted from fires in which no smoke alarms were present at all.

The survey also shows that one-quarter – or 23 percent – of the deaths were caused by fires in properties in which smoke alarms were present, but failed to operate. Smoke alarms operated in fires that caused two out of five – or 40 percent – of home fire deaths. One percent of the deaths resulted from fires that were too small to activate the smoke alarm.

Before a smoke alarm even activates, there are tips that can ensure a safe holiday. Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in a fireplace. And before you build a fire or turn on a gas fireplace, be sure that the chimney has been checked and cleaned.

Also remember, never use lighted candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable item in the house. Candles should not be left burning while unattended. That goes for the stove and oven.

According to the National Safety Council, two to three people are treated in emergency rooms during every hour of the holiday season.

While preparing for the holidays, here are a few more safety tips from the National Safety Council to keep in mind:

» Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." It can irritate your eyes and skin. A common substitute is non-flammable cotton.

» When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully. These sprays can irritate your lungs if you inhale them.

» Be especially careful when you choose toys for infants or small children. Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off or prove a choking hazard.

» Be aware of dangers associated with coin lithium batteries

» Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

And here is even more from the Electrical Safety Foundation International:

» Avoid overloading electrical outlets, which can overheat and cause a fire. Do not place extension cords where they could cause a tripping hazard, such as doorways. Do not run extension cords under rugs or furniture.

» Keep all decorations three feet away from heat sources, including space heaters and fireplaces. Keep youngsters in mind by placing breakables, candles and other potentially dangerous items out of their reach.

» Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving home or going to sleep. Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture. Make sure live Christmas trees are watered daily.

Holidays are meant to be fun. A happy holiday is a safe one. Be sure to double-check your smoke alarms and be mindful of safety issues while enjoying the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Devious writing

I couldn't help but notice the obvious omission of using the word "tax" by Mr. Mike Nystrom, guest columnist, regarding the "fixing of our roads" in the Dec. 4 *Observer*.

It was clear that both Mr. Nystrom and Mr. Colbeck agree on fixing our roads. The only difference was that Mr. Colbeck opposed "Gov. Rick Snyder's plan" to raise gas taxes in Michigan, but Mr. Nystrom completely avoided the use of the word "tax" in his entire diatribe.

His devious technique was to use catch phrases such as "Gov. Rick Snyder's plan," "a road funding solution" or "the bill to fix the roads." Nystrom sounds like a "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" to me.

Mr. Nystrom, you are a devious writer. Someone reading your opinion would have no idea of what you are talking about. Thank you, Mr. Colbeck, for making the point clear regarding an increase in gasoline tax on the citizens of Michigan. I am opposed to it.

Michigan motorists pay an 18-cent federal tax and a 19-cent state tax on each gallon of gasoline they purchase. And because Michigan also charges sales tax on gasoline, motorists here pay more at the pump than they would in many other states. From the following

source: (http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2014/06/michigan_road_funding_crisis_c.html)

Consider replacing the Michigan sales tax on gasoline with a road tax, a hotel tax or a car rental tax, but no specific details from Mr. Nystrom were given.

Dave Thomas
Canton

Praise immigration action

Three cheers for President Barack Obama and his immigration reform. The president again shows himself to be a noble person who cares deeply for people, families and human dignity.

I am sickened by Republican leaders who are so haughty and sanctimonious in condemning the President's action. To tell the truth, Republican leaders seem to have a single, cheap goal — destroy the president and every one of his accomplishments.

James Gualdoni
Commerce Township

Goodfellow thanks

As our 2014 Christmas campaign winds down, I'd like to thank the people of Plymouth for all you do to ensure that Christmas comes to every child.

Thanks to those of you who are on the board of directors,

those who volunteered at the paper sale, adopted a child, offered to adopt a child or donated your time, food or money. All these efforts come together to help us reach our goal of "No Child Without a Christmas." We could not function without your help and support.

It is an honor to live in such a caring and gracious community. The Goodfellows have been working in Plymouth for 76 years and, with your help, I know it will continue for many more years to come.

May you all have a merry Christmas.

Kristen Farmer
president, Plymouth
Goodfellows

Fix our roads

This week in Lansing, the idea being kicked around is to use the funding from the revenue that is sent to school district and cities to fix all our roads and bridges — and not by increasing taxes on gas, as previously planned. Rather than increase tax on gas, the state would cut spending to schools districts and cities.

I agree and this is why: The plan would increase gas by 19 cents per gallon, which means we would be paying 41 cents in taxes per gallon of gas. On an average, filling up you would be paying \$3.80 per 20 gallons (\$76) or \$6.08 per 32

gallons (\$195), if you have a SUV like me.

On the average, I fill up three times per month. That would mean \$18.08 per month for average driving. So in a year's time, at normal fill-ups, I would pay \$216.96 more in gas tax. This is normal drive time, not taking in account during the summer, when I drive more and burn more gas.

No thank you! I would rather pay the millage the local city would have to increase to make up the difference the state would take from the city tax revenue. Take the last safety 3.5-mill tax our city asked from the residents. It increased my taxes only approximately \$100 per year, but 3.5 mills brought the city \$666,000 per mill or \$2,331,000 per year.

Would I rather pay the city tax increase of \$100 or the gas tax of \$216.98? I pay the city taxes, save \$116.98 and plus get to claim the millage tax on my income taxes, saving even more. We would also have less auto repair and our vehicles would last longer.

I am for getting our roads and bridges fixed, they are the worst. Our past governors, Democratic or Republican, and the state House and Senate have over kicked the can down the road until the can is rusted out and can't be kicked no more. When our economy was doing better, the politicians

couldn't agree on a plan and now our infrastructure is one of the worst in any state our size with this many cars and trucks using our highways.

But we also need some laws on the books to control the weight limits the trucks are carrying over our roads. This will also bring in extra revenue from fines and special weight permits.

We now have a governor (whether you like him or not) who wants and will get them fixed. If it ends up increasing our gas tax to get it done, so be it, not that I will like paying more gasoline tax. We have to agree the money has to come from somewhere. I would say if we are going to increase the gas tax, let's do it smaller and increase the tobacco tax also. We will be saving lives two ways, better roads, less accidents and healthier drivers.

Call your state representative today and suggest that since the can can't be kicked down the road any more, they need to work with the governor and pass a bill that will get our roads and bridges fixed. Besides, this will boost our employment in the state and pump much-needed dollars into the Michigan economy.

It's a win-win situation in getting and keeping Pure Michigan better!

Al Buckner
Garden City

GUEST COLUMN

Report reveals why arid land bird species need protection

By Steve Holmer
Guest Columnist

Since 2009, federal agencies, academics and conservation groups have assessed the status of America's birds in an annual State of the Birds report, which focuses on the habitats that species need to survive. The 2014 report finds that while some overall improvement has occurred to wetlands, arid land habitats — which include the deserts, sagebrush and chaparral of the American West — continue to be degraded.

Birds in these fragile arid land habitats show the steepest population declines in the nation with a 46-percent loss in the population of these birds



A western yellow-billed cuckoo.

AUDUBON.ORG

since 1968 and a 6-percent drop just since 2009. Habitat loss and fragmentation, energy development, water diver-

sions, overgrazing and conversion to agriculture are the largest threats.

One result of this ongoing habitat loss and decline is the loss of species to the dire point that many wide-ranging western arid lands birds now need protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Greater sage grouse were once a superabundant bird of the sagebrush sea with millions of birds covering hundreds of million acres from eastern Washington across to the Dakotas, down to Colorado and back again to cover most of Utah and Nevada. Today, instead of 16 million grouse, there are only about 200,000 and that number is on a downward trend.

Sage grouse are skittish birds that don't like nearby development, which makes them an excellent indicator of the overall health of the sagebrush ecosystem. Decades of oil and gas drilling, grazing and the resulting spread of invasive cheat grass, mining and conversion to agriculture have reduced the amount of sagebrush, fragmented the landscape and nearly eliminated the large blocks of pristine

sagebrush the birds thrive in. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concluded the species deserves protection under the Endangered Species Act and the agency must make a final decision on listing next year.

Another threatened bird species, the western yellow-billed cuckoo, is also in sharp decline. It inhabits riparian forests along desert streams, a habitat that has been nearly eliminated in the West due to decisions by federal agencies to divert water and graze large numbers of cattle that eat tree saplings struggling to reestablish themselves next to the streams.

The western yellow-billed cuckoo was just granted ESA protection and a draft plan to protect some of the birds' remaining critical habitat is now open for public comment.

The cuckoo needs considerably more habitat than currently exists, which will require the restoration and regrowth of stream-side forests in the southwest, southern California and the Inter-mountain West. This restoration will benefit numerous other fish and wildlife species and create

new recreation hot spots along the riverside.

Regrettably, the Obama administration's proposed critical habitat rule doesn't even protect all of the cuckoo's currently occupied habitat, let alone identify and provide protection for the areas needed for forest restoration.

Similarly, plans being drafted to conserve greater sage grouse are falling woefully short of what government scientists say is needed to halt the species' decline and maintain quality sagebrush habitat.

Reversing the decline of America's arid lands — and the bird species that rely on that desert and sagebrush habitat — will take more than half-measures. The Obama administration needs to take another look at ongoing federal actions and revise them in a fashion that will maintain the wide-open spaces of the West, create jobs through restoring lost forests and leave future generations of Americans a legacy of abundant wildlife.

Steve Holmer is senior policy adviser for American Bird Conservancy. The 2014 State of the Birds report can be found at stateofthebirds.org.

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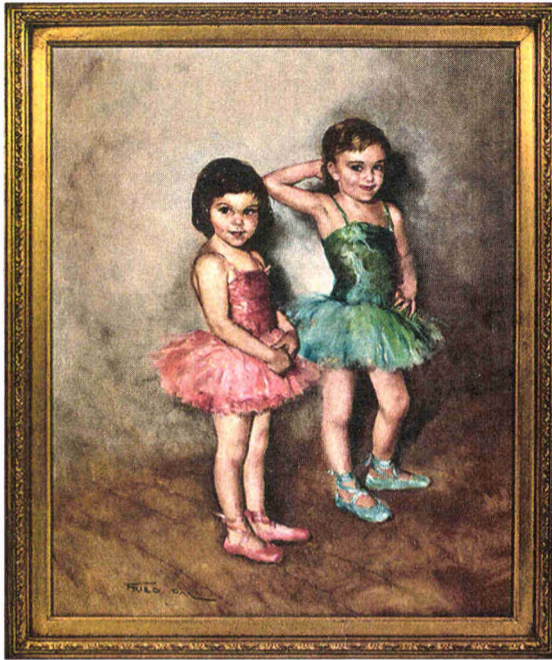
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ESTATE AUCTION THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY AT 6:30PM

SATURDAY AT 11AM

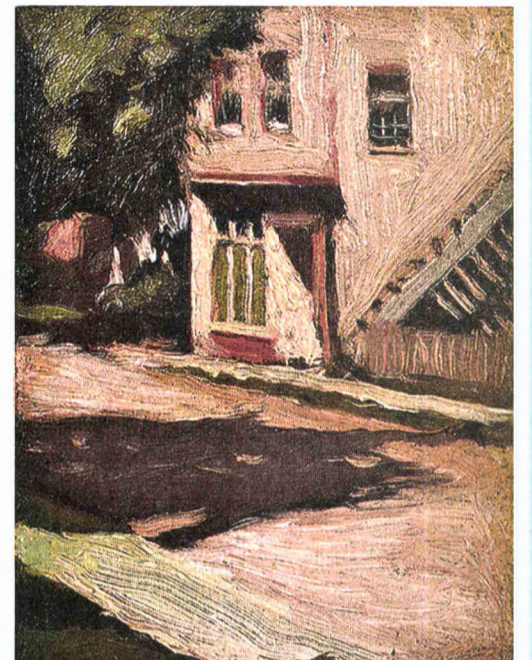
SUNDAY AT NOON



FRIED PAL (1893 - 1976)
OIL ON CANVAS, BALLERINAS



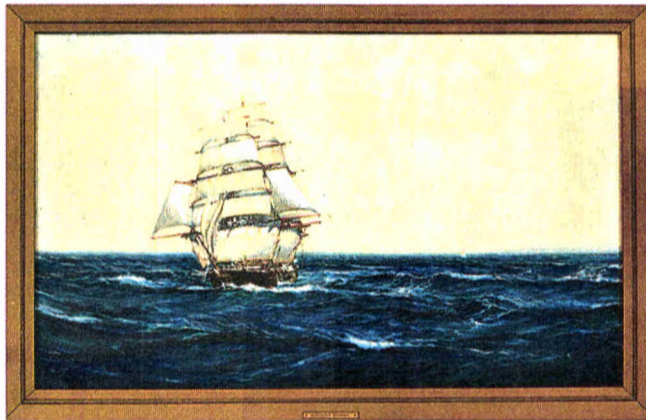
FREDERIC REMINGTON (1861-1909)
ORIGINAL OIL ON CANVAS



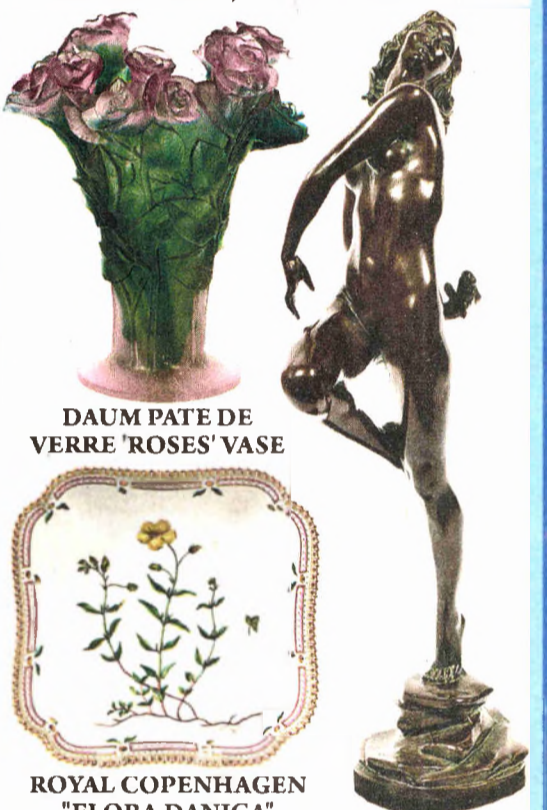
EDWARD HOPPER (1882-1967)
OIL ON BOARD, "STREET IN SHADE"



ITALIAN CARRARA MARBLE SCULPTURE
19TH CENTURY, H.48"



MONTAGUE DAWSON (1890-1973) WATERCOLOR
CLIPPER SHIP AT FULL SAIL



DAUM PATE DE VERRE 'ROSES' VASE

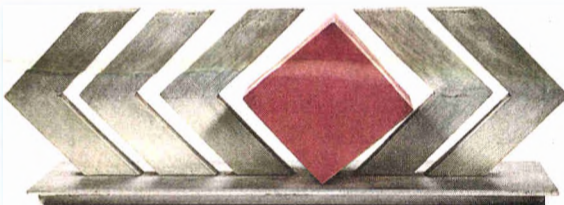
HARRIET FRISHMUTH
"LAUGHING WATERS"



LARRY RIVERS (1923-2002), LITHOGRAPH
'DIANE RAISED IV'



ROYAL COPENHAGEN
"FLORA DANICA"
PORCELAIN SET



HANNA STIEBEL
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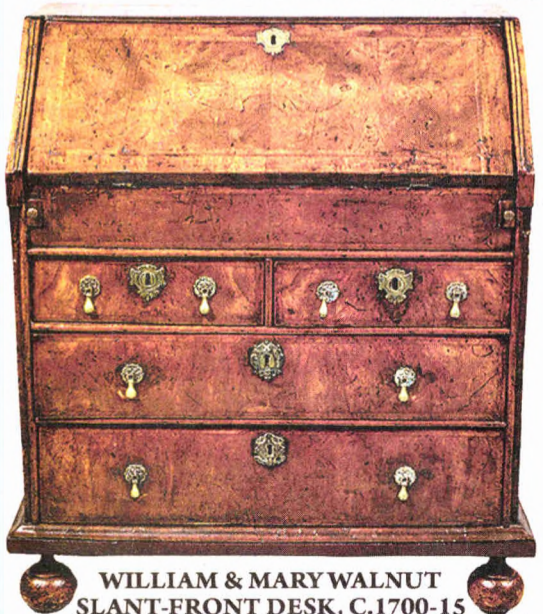
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Wayne County Health Department urges residents to get flu shots this year

The Wayne County Department of Public Health is holding a walk-in flu shot clinic from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, as part of its National Influenza Vaccination Week observance. The Wayne County flu clinic will be at the Wayne County Department of Public Health Clinic, 33030 Van Born, Wayne.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against influenza. It established National Influenza Vaccination Week in 2005 to raise awareness of continuing flu vaccination throughout the holiday season and into the New Year.

"Every year, the best way to prevent the flu and flu-related complications is by getting a flu shot," said Robert Ficano, Wayne County executive, who received his annual flu vaccine at a Wayne County employee clinic in October. "We continue to urge and remind Wayne County residents to protect their families against influenza by making plans now to get their flu shots before the number of cases increase."

The flu is a mild to serious contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can lead to serious complications in infants and seniors and those with chronic diseases and even result in death. U.S. flu activity typically peaks between December and February and can last as late as May.

Dr. Mouhanad Hammami, health officer/



WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
The Wayne County Health Department is administering the quadrivalent vaccine, which provides 4-in-1 protection against four commonly-circulating flu strains worldwide.

chief of health operations, Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services, stressed that it's not too late to get vaccinated in time for the holidays and winter months, when flu viruses generally circulate the most. "Getting the flu vaccine during late fall into winter provides ample time for vaccine protection before the flu season peaks," he said. "However, by not getting vaccinated, you put yourself, your family and those around you at risk. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors visits, absences from school and work and prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths."

The Wayne County Department of Public Health is administering the quadrivalent vaccine during the 2014-15 season, which provides 4-in-1 protection against four commonly-circulating flu strains worldwide. The 4-in-1 vaccine is priced at only \$20. Medicaid, Medicare Part B and the Vaccines for Children program for eligible youngsters are also accepted to cover the cost.

Wayne County Public Health is one of a limited number of area health providers offering the quadrivalent vaccine. Hammami said that the vaccine is highly recommended for both its convenience and effectiveness.

"Even unvaccinated individuals who have already gotten sick with one type of flu virus may still benefit from vaccination since the quad vaccine provides broad flu protection against four different international flu viruses in circulation this influenza season," he said. "Other flu shots are also limited in the number of flu strains they protect against, which is why the 4-in-1 vaccine offers greater and superior flu coverage for persons of all ages."

Flu vaccines are also available by appointment at the Wayne County Public Health clinic for the remainder of the 2014-15 flu season while supplies last.

For more information, or to make a flu vaccine appointment, call 734-727-7101 or go to www.waynecounty.com and click on Featured event.

Pastors reach out to 'Christmas, Easter people' with love

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Rev. Robert Allen of First Presbyterian Church of Northville will see some new faces at Christmas worship.

"You get folks that are tangentially associated with the church," said Allen, a Lyon Township resident and head of staff and teaching elder at the downtown Northville congregation. "The bottom line for me is numbers on a membership roll are less important. It's a family of faith wherever you go. Come as you are, come when you can."

"Folks want to reconnect," Allen said. "You want to connect them to something. It's not just a ritual, but a relationship. It's all about being present and not trying to put on airs."

He and other pastors see "Christmas and Easter people," infrequent church goers, each year. Christian clergy view the holidays as an opportunity to reach those people.

"One of the ways I reach out is moving past the ordinary," Allen said. "The idea is to capture their interest and their intellect." Some see Christmas in simplistic terms, not realizing the strife that existed when Jesus was born.

"The story is much deeper and broader than that. It's a refuge from the rest of the world," Allen added of the modern church. "This promised peace is not something that happens in isolation."

Ancient roots

He said the Palestine-Israel conflict has ancient roots, noting the "Roman imperialism" of Caesar Augustus in Jesus' time.

"People look to government to solve things and it's not always helpful," Allen said, referencing the Ferguson, Mo., case that has inflamed racial tensions.

Allen noted that the good news of Jesus' birth was announced to people not accustomed to such good news.

At NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, pastors also greet newcomers at Christmas and Easter, said the Rev. Wayne Kurtycz, a regional campus leader. NorthRidge also has campuses at Saline, Grosse Ile and Brighton.

"It really is connected to our power as a church to wake people up to Jesus," said Kurtycz, a Canton resident. "We involve people. We hope to have God take them to that next step, to know God unabashedly loves them. We relevantly show God's truth without



JULIE BROWN
As Christmas nears, local pastors reach out to "Christmas and Easter people," infrequent worshippers.

compromising it."

At NorthRidge, the celebration is of Christ's birth, not just in the Bethlehem manger, "but to bear our sins on the cross," Kurtycz said. "That's how we really want to wake up our world to Jesus. In all the chaos and sadness of the world, he loves us."

Celebrating hope

Kurtycz noted some yule worshippers are experiencing loss of a loved one; the Great Recession also hurt many, although he sees that improving. "We celebrate hope," he said. The Rev. Brad Powell and others at NorthRidge preach, with music and technology incorporated.

"It's beyond entertainment, it's inspiration," Kurtycz said. "They are very receptive," he added of newcomers and the message. Many say, "I went to church and I felt better when I left."

"Thousands of people have come through those doors," Kurtycz said. "As we grow larger, we grow smaller. At the end of the day, it's all about relationships," with God and with other people.

NorthRidge is a mega-church, but he noted many opportunities to meet and worship in smaller settings. "That God would bless this place as he has is phenomenal," Kurtycz said. "God's just using this place to touch a lot of loves and touch a lot of people."

At Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City, the Rev. Wayne Parker, pastor, said, "At both Christmas and Easter, we do a lot of special programs."

On Dec. 21, his congregation's adult choir and drama performance will draw people in, as do youth outreach efforts, "knowing that this time of year they're more inclined to think about spiritual things," said Parker, a Garden City resident.

Easter play

Merriman Road Baptist does a passion play at Easter. "Christmas Eve, there's no seats left," he said of the candlelight service. "It gives us a chance just to share the good news of the Gospel."

Like others, clothing styles don't concern Parker for worship. "Absolutely not. We just want them to come. We take the opportunities that present themselves," including family members introducing newcomers to worship and faith.

Joe Kohn of Northville Township is a spokesman for the Archdiocese of Detroit. "It's a population we understand is there," Kohn said, noting some names used such as "Christmas and Easter Catholics."

"As a church, we are happy to see it's hard to find a seat during the holiday liturgies," Kohn said. "It's a great time to welcome worshippers to the church." Some attend with family members, he noted.

"It's a great time to show the welcoming Christmas spirit," Kohn said. He said area Catholic parishes see attendance swell at Easter, when new members are welcomed or others join in more fully such as through confirmation.

"It's part of the church's life cycle to reach out to people at these times," Kohn said. He said the four Sundays of Advent before Christmas help Christians prepare. "We're supposed to be preparing our hearts for Christ," Kohn said.

The Rev. Gary Michalik, pastor of St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia, said, "If they feel welcome, they'll come again. It's just a matter of making them feel welcome and they have a good experience. We just want to make sure we provide services. They're welcome to join us."

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BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PART 2



Canton guard Greg Williams dribbles around Salem defenders last season. Williams is one of the keys to the Chiefs' hopes in 2014-15. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



AARON BELL | OHL IMAGES
The Plymouth Whalers acquired defenseman Sean Callaghan from the Saginaw Spirit.

OHL TRADE

Whalers acquire blue liner Callaghan

Plymouth trades future draft pick to help bolster defense

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Injuries have decimated the Plymouth Whalers right from the start of the 2014-15 Ontario Hockey League season.

The biggest loss was a knee injury suffered in October by defenseman and captain Alex Peters and the line to the doctor's room hasn't subsided since.

With six starters (including Peters) still out of the Whalers lineup, Plymouth general manager Mark Craig swung a deal Tuesday to help stabilize the blueline.

Craig announced the acquisition of 20-year-old defenseman Sean Callaghan from the Saginaw Spirit in exchange for a fourth round draft choice in 2016.

"After we became aware that Alex Peters would be out for the remainder of the season, Sean was at the top of our list," said Craig, in a press release from the Whalers. "Sean — with his experience — eats up minutes for us on defense, plays hard every night and plays heavy."

"He will add leadership and experience to our core group. We are fortunate to bring in a player of Sean's character and experience. We're happy to have him."

See WHALERS, Page B4

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

Chiefs ready to get to work against tough early opponents

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

As usual, the Canton Chiefs won't be shying away from tough opponents during the opening weeks of the 2014-15 varsity boys basketball season.

Sixth-year head coach Jimmy Reddy likes to load up the December schedule with strong non-conference foes in order to determine what he has in his own team.

Canton was scheduled to open Wednesday night with a home game against Ann Ar-

bor Pioneer, then Friday night the Chiefs visit Detroit Country Day before taking on Novi, Livonia Stevenson and Orchard Lake St. Mary's between now and New Year's Day.

"I think we are playing one of the toughest non-league schedules in the area," Reddy said. "It's always been our approach that we're going to play hard teams in the non-league to get us ready for division play and league play and tournament time at the end of the year."

"We're going to get tested

early, for sure. We'll see what we're like. But we're trying to get better for February and March."

As long as the Chiefs compete and stay healthy during that early stretch, they should be a load in the KLAA South Division.

That's because, coming off a season in which Canton finished 15-8 and ultimately lost to Salem in the district final, Reddy knows he has some stellar athletes and competitors on his roster.

Ready to compete

At the top of the list is senior combo guard and co-captain Greg Williams, entering his fourth season as a starter.

Williams brings court savvy and smarts, easily transferring the heady leadership skills from the gridiron (where he quarterbacked Canton deep into the state playoffs) to the floor.

"We haven't had a leader as good as Greg in my six years

See CHIEFS, Page B4

PREP WRESTLING PREVIEW - PART 1

Wildcats reload for another big year

Confidence strong despite graduation of seven starters

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last winter was one to cherish for Plymouth's varsity wrestling team.

The Wildcats went 33-5, capturing KLAA Kensington Conference, district and regional championships before falling to eventual state champion Novi Detroit Catholic Central in the Division 1 state quarterfinals.

Despite the graduation of two-time state placer Mohammad Youssef, state placers Jon Conn, Sofus Neilsen and Joey Shaver, among others, Plymouth looks to keep the success going in 2014-15.

Veteran head coach Quinn Guernsey, entering his seventh season, emphasized that some question whether those losses will make it tough to repeat the program's "most successful season" to date.

"However, the (current) team seems to be embracing their role in being able to continue the tradition of excellence that last year's team established," Guernsey said.

"While not every member of our starting lineup had the opportunity to gain varsity exposure last season, they are veteran members of the Plymouth wrestling program."

"We are anticipating a team that will be based on continual improvement and whose success builds as the season advances. Our ambitions are as strong as ever."

The season begins Saturday, when the Wildcats participate at the Northville Invitational.

See WILDCATS, Page B3



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK
Senior Hussein Youssef (left), shown from last season, is one of the key returnees from Plymouth's regional championship team.

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COLLEGE SOCCER

Shivraman out at Schoolcraft

Veteran soccer coach draws plenty of support from current and former players after abrupt firing

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Deepak Shivraman isn't sure why he was abruptly bounced from his longtime position as head coach of the Schoolcraft College women's soccer team.

Some of his players also can't fathom why Shivraman was let go shortly after the 2014 Lady Ocelots enjoyed an 11-2-1 season — albeit losing the NJCAA Region XII region final in a heartbreaking 1-0 decision Nov. 2 against Owens Community College.

Ten days later, the college announced Dave Carver was named to Shivraman's former spot, which he had for eight seasons.

Almost a month later, nothing has been clarified about why Shivraman's Schoolcraft career unexpectedly came to a halt.

"After eight seasons, I was informed that my contract was not going to be renewed," wrote Shivraman in an e-mail to the *Observer*. "Once I got over the shock, I asked repeatedly for an explanation but was not given one. Apparently this is the nature of the beast if you are an 'at-will' employee."

Schoolcraft athletics director Sid Fox declined to shed light for this story about whether the move was budgetary or performance-based.

"Deepak was not reappointed to that position, and under college policy we cannot discuss personnel matters," noted Fox in an e-mail response.

Show of support

Shivraman went on to state that while it was frustrating not to be given a concrete reason for not being renewed as coach, he was heartened by the con-



Deepak Shivraman, shown on the sidelines at Schoolcraft College during a 2013 game, guided the Lady Ocelots to four straight conference titles, including this year.

tinuing support from former players.

"My players have approached the college administration and have not received any answers either, so it has frustrated them as well," Shivraman continued. "I am so lucky that I have had an incredible outpouring of former players and current players who have called, e-mailed me with the kindest of sentiments."

Under Shivraman's watch, Schoolcraft made four national tournament appearances (most recently in 2010) and won the Michigan Community College Athletic Association title in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The decision not to bring Shivraman back stunned current and former players.

"I was pretty surprised," said Remy Houttekier, a member of Schoolcraft's 2013 and 2014 teams. "I wasn't thinking that would happen at all, especially because we had a very successful year with not really any problems."

"So as a sophomore and having him for two years, it was pretty shocking to me to hear that."

Always concerned

According to North Farmington and Schoolcraft alum Dena Sana, a Lady Ocelot in the 2008 and 2009 seasons, both seasons she played at Schoolcraft for Shivraman "were great."

"We had good seasons, we had good training sessions, he

was a good coach," said Sana, a forward who was part of teams that reached nationals both seasons. "He made sure we kept up with our grades in the classroom. He wasn't only worried about our success on the soccer field."

"He was concerned with our success in the classroom, even when I put my application for law school he always wrote us a recommendation, he always gave a reference for us. He always helped us out if he could, many years after we graduated."

Sana, who now is a law student at the University of Detroit-Mercy, the firing took her by surprise.

"I thought Deepak was a good coach and I thought he did a good job when we were there," Sana said. "It was a long time ago. But he's a good soccer coach. He did a good job with us."

Houttekier said there were no problems that she was aware of surrounding the 2014 team, other than a "miscommunication between the captains and the coaches" that was quickly smoothed over.

"We were supposed to go to the men's game after one of our games," Houttekier said. "We thought they (coaches) said, 'Make your best effort.' But they said mandatory."

"Only half the team showed up. And coaches were pretty angry about it. But after the coaches worked it out with the captains everything went back smoothly."

Houttekier emphasized she could only give Shivraman the highest marks she could as a coach.

"Coming in as a freshman, I was really injured and everything like that," Houttekier explained. "I was still working through a lot of stuff, and he gave so much patience to letting me heal up. And to give me time to figure out what kind of player I wanted to be, and everything like that."

"He does give the patience. He is understanding of a lot of people's situations and everything. He's there for the girls, for the team."

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Ocelots unable to overcome early deficit

Schoolcraft's cold shooting in the first half Saturday cost the Ocelots, who fell 78-69 to host Lake Michigan College.

The Ocelots (7-2 in the MCCA) hit just 11-of-32 (34.4 percent) from the floor in the first half and trailed 33-23 at halftime. A surge in the second half could not offset the slow start.

Scoring 18 points for Schoolcraft was Lito Brown, with Ja'Christian Biles and Anthony Wartley-Fritz tallying 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Leading the victors with 25 points was Montel Green.

Tyler Johnson collected nine points and six rebounds for Schoolcraft, while DeShawndre Black chipped in seven points and five boards.

On Friday at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Schoolcraft broke a 39-39 halftime tie with a strong second half to win 85-70.

Spearinghead the Ocelots to victory were Biles (23 points, 10 rebounds), Black (13 points, seven rebounds) and Wartley-Fritz (eight points, 10 boards). Helping the cause with seven points and four rebounds was Canton alum Davon Taylor.

Next up for Schoolcraft is a 3 p.m. Saturday match-up at home against Edison State.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY 80, SCHOOLCRAFT (WOMEN) 69: Schoolcraft trailed just 35-34 at halftime Saturday against Kalamazoo Valley Community College, but could not overcome a tough second half.

After the intermission, the Lady Ocelots (6-4) connected on just 11 of 38 (28.9 percent) shots from the floor, while Kalamazoo Valley nearly hit 50 percent (14-of-29).

Ashley Bland (Wayne Memorial) led Schoolcraft with 19 points, while T'era Nesbitt (16 points), Elise Tolbert (13 points) and Jessica Parry (10 points) all reached double digits in scoring.

The Lady Ocelots will host Edison State at 1 p.m. Saturday.

SCHOOLCRAFT (WOMEN) 75, MID-MICHIGAN 64: The host Lady Ocelots improved to 6-3 with this victory Dec. 3 over Mid-Michigan Community College.

Leading the way with 25 points and 11 rebounds was T'era Nesbitt, while Ashley Brand contributed 22. Elise Tolbert added 13 and Jessica Parry helped the cause with nine points.



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BOYS WRESTLING PREVIEW – PART 1

Rocks look to keep climbing

Defending KLAA Central champions eager for encore

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's no denying 2013-14 was a successful year for Salem's varsity wrestling program.

The Rocks went 18-7 in dual meets and captured the KLAA Central Division title. This season could be just as successful for the team and individuals. Salem opens the schedule with a tri-meet Thursday against Lakeland and Milford.

"We have 11 returning varsity wrestlers, which bodes well for the squad," said Jeremy Henderson, co-coach with Pete Israel.

"We have aspirations of winning a district title and getting a handful of kids to the state meet this year, as well as winning back-to-back division titles."

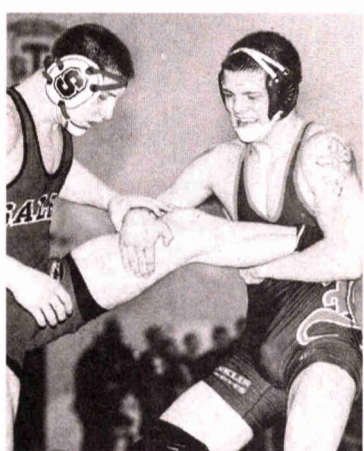
The coaches know they have outstanding senior Mitchell Gross back to anchor the bottom of the lineup. Gross, a state placer last year (eighth), will compete at 215.

"Mitchell Gross is going after a state title this year and I believe he has what it takes to compete for it," Henderson said.

Other upperclassmen who have the ability to make it to The Palace of Auburn Hills are junior Cam Shaughnessy (119), senior regional qualifier Caleb McCabe (152), senior Charlie Woody (135), junior Andrew Lindsay (130) and junior Roy Foster (189).

"They are all upperclassmen that can be at the state meet this year if they put the work in," Henderson said.

He added that three returnees who won varsity letters as



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

One of Salem's returnees is senior Caleb McCabe (left), who is looking to build on a solid junior season.

freshmen can make the lineup even stronger.

"Peter Bushaw, Bruce Haslitt and Akash Rai are excellent sophomores and can be in the mix as well, if they have good seasons," Henderson said.

Bushaw is penciled in at 160, while Haslitt and Rai will start at 140 and 112, respectively.

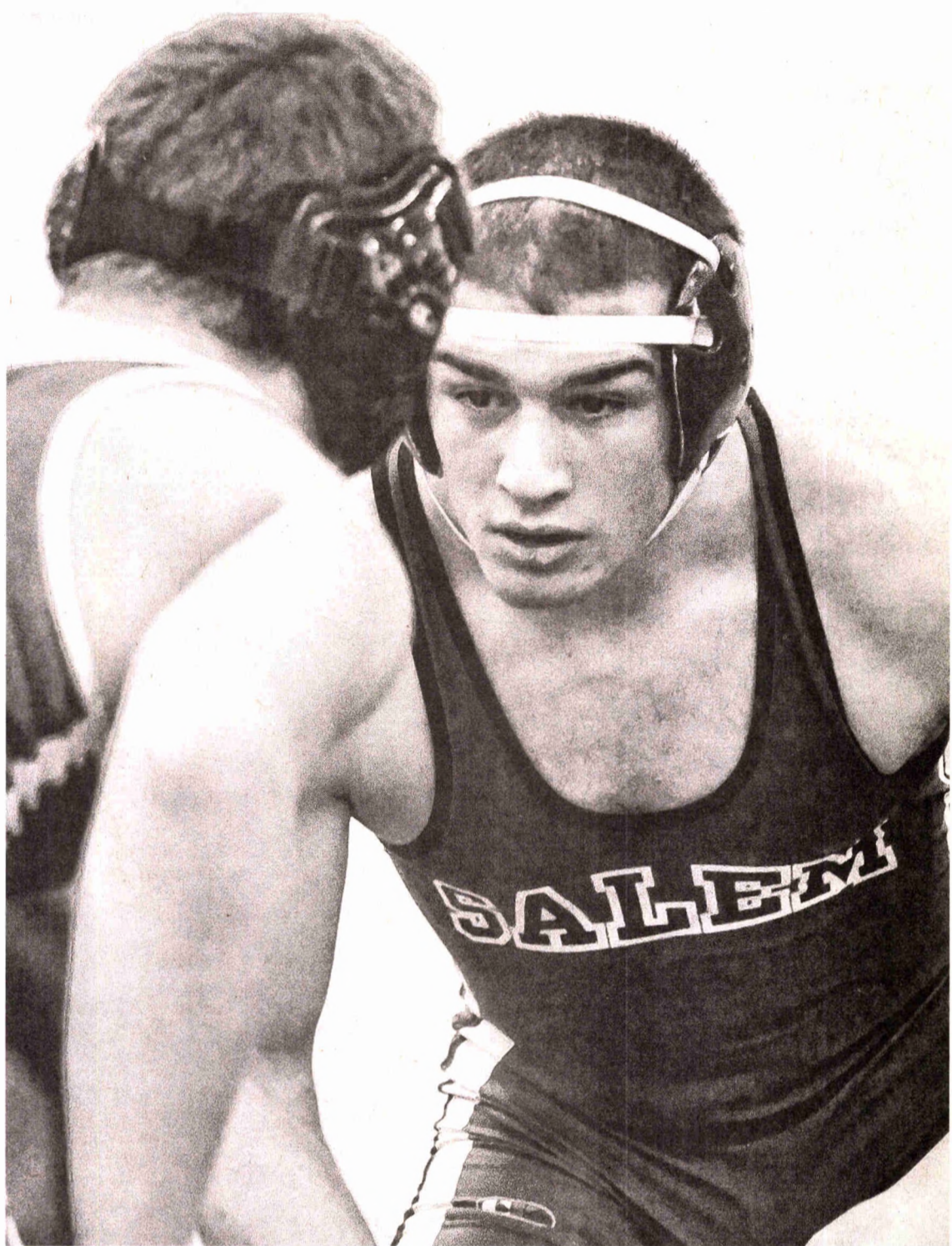
Other starters are expected to include freshman Nate Gaubatz (103), junior returnee Seth Dunn (145), junior Ahmad Mehzen (171) and junior heavyweight Tyler Moore.

Dividing time at 125 will be junior Russ Gaubatz and freshman Tyler Knopp.

Henderson stressed that strong talent and leadership from Salem's seniors and juniors bodes well for another strong season.

He added that a plus is getting "great incoming freshmen from the club and middle school programs. We are very excited to get this season underway."

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FILE PHOTO

Salem senior Mitchell Gross shows his competitive focus before this 2013-14 bout. He finished eighth at the Division 1 state finals in his weight class.

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

Strong returnees

Plymouth still boasts some strong returnees, highlighted by senior state placer Brandon Harris (119 pounds), senior state qualifier Hussein Youssef (189) and junior regional qualifier Michael Jordan (285).

Also back are junior Dylan Dwyer (135), junior Spencer Schiftar (130) and junior Collin Reed (125), who each enjoyed a successful season on varsity last winter, Guernsey said.

Meanwhile, Reed is facing competition at his weight from junior Nourdeen Hussini.

Other individuals set to start include freshman Isiah Berry (103), freshman Larry Williams III (112) and senior Jake Noll (171).

At other weights, the Wildcats can mix and match with six spots (including 125) expected to be shared.

In the mix at 140 will be junior Sterling Schiftar and sophomore Alan Farmer; sophomore Lucas Harden and junior Jake Griffith are set to compete at 145.

Plymouth's lineup at 152 will include either junior Keagan Fahey or sophomore Joey Ahearn.

The 160 weight will be shared by sophomore Ethan Shulaw and junior Jeff Motes.

At 215, sophomores Zach Lohrmann and Ricky Burke are slotted to do divide the action.

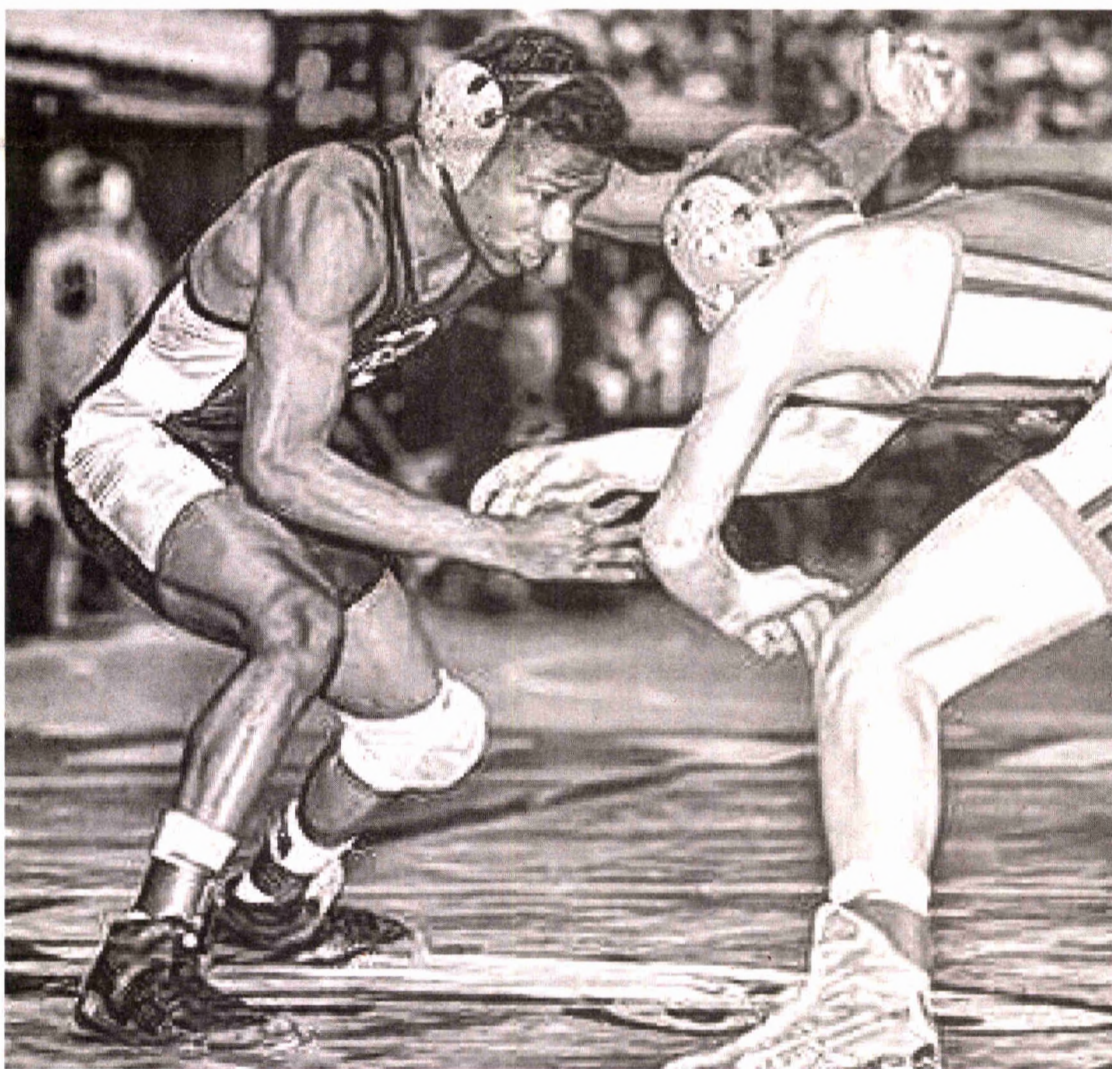
Opportunity knocks

Guernsey said the graduation of seven starters is opening the door for others to show their abilities.

"Many talented juniors and sophomores who have been stuck behind very good wrestlers are getting their first shot at full-time varsity positions," he said. "Sterling Schiftar, Alan Farmer, Lucas Harden, Keagan Fahey, Ethan Shulaw and Jake Noll have all improved a lot in the off-season and should be poised to contribute."

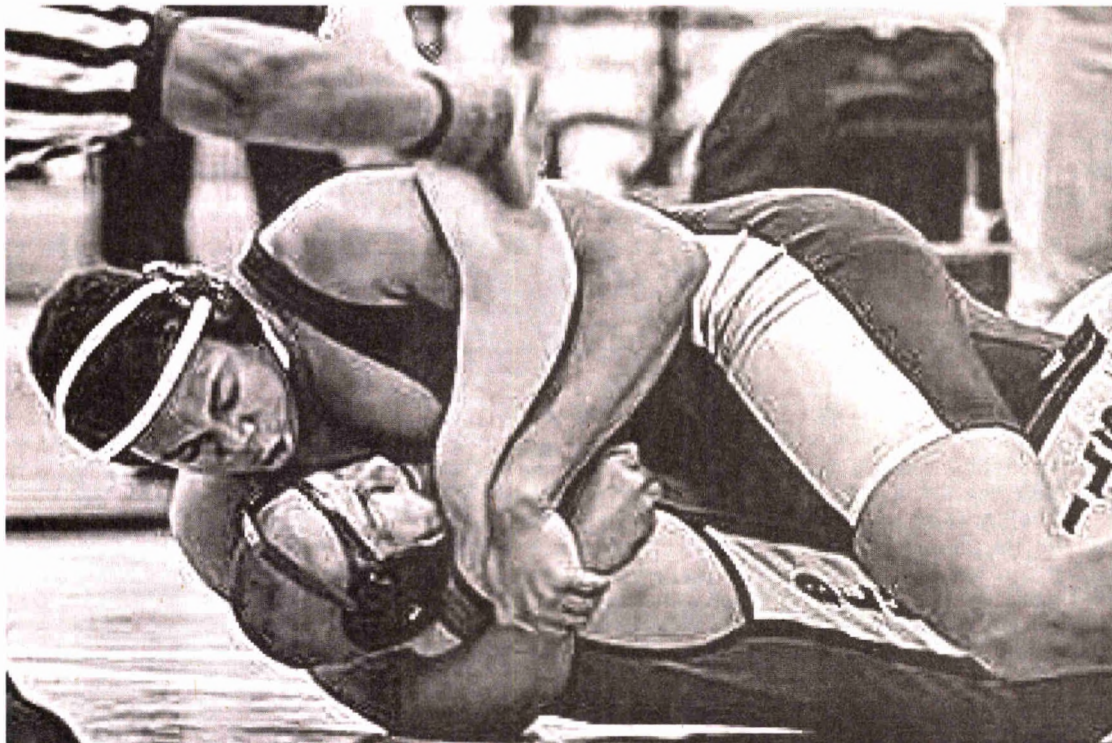
"Lohrmann and Burke have matured and should help solidify a very talented top of the lineup. Isiah Berry should anchor the 103 weight class and have a very solid freshman campaign."

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DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Ready to pick up where he left off for Plymouth is senior 119-pounder Brandon Harris (left), a state placer last season.



ROBERT SHAVER

Plymouth heavyweight Michael Jordan pins an opponent during a 2013-14 match.

PREP BOWLING

Canton boys keglers win invitational

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton's bowling teams literally are on a roll to open the 2014-15 season.

The Chiefs' boys squad took first place at Saturday's Lakeland Invitational, held at Century Lanes in Waterford, topping the 20-team field with 2,839 pins. In second was Salem, with 2,654, while Plymouth finished 12th overall (2,257).

On the girls side, the Chiefs came in fourth with 2,147 pins, trailing victorious Lakeland (2,320), Howell (2,239) and Waterford Kettering (2,165).

"We had a total team effort as we changed the lineup as well through the day," Canton boys coach Karl Brubaker said. "This was a very nice way to start the season and we look for more wins in the weeks ahead."

Leading the way for the Chiefs was Josh Criscenti, who rolled 233 and 225 games.

Mitchell Zelenak had 214 and 209 games, while Tyler Pozan (257) and Aaron Madsen (211) also had strong showings.

Canton tallied a 239 in the final Baker game.

The Chiefs bested Howell in the championship game, 203-247-450 to 171-190-361. In order to reach that match-up, Canton needed to get past South Lyon and Walled Lake Central.

Canton's girls nearly did as well, defeating Hartland and Lakeland before falling to Brighton in the finals. Canton tallied Baker games of 223 and 186.

Meghan Macunovich had a consistent showing, with Shivani Patel contributing a nifty 183 game and Megan Plave showing some spark after missing a few frames, coach Kristin Truszkowski said.

A complete team effort featured "great bowling from all the girls," Truszkowski added.

As for the other Park girls teams, Plymouth registered 1,733 pins for 11th place, while Salem came in 13th with a tally of 1,669 pins.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Poor third quarter does in Canton girls

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Things are improving for Canton's varsity girls basketball team, despite Tuesday's 51-35 loss to visiting Dearborn Divine Child.

For starters, the defeat wasn't as lopsided as last Thursday's 66-25 rout at the hands of defending Class A champion Bloomfield Hills Marian.

On Tuesday, against the No. 6-ranked Falcons, Canton played tougher — other than the third quarter, when the Chiefs were outscored 20-7 to fall behind 38-20.

"We played a lot better in this game," Canton head coach Kevin Palmer said. "We played well in the first half, defensively.

"But the third quarter hurt us. That was the outlier quarter; the other quarters were really tight."

Sophomore Brianna Finn led Canton (0-2) with 11

points, while sophomore Erin Hult and senior Alanna Brown chipped in eight and seven points, respectively.

Plymouth falls, 55-43

The visiting Wildcats lost a hard-fought varsity girls basketball game to Farmington Hills Harrison, 55-43, falling to 1-2 on the season.

Plymouth were behind 9-0 against the Hawks when senior Patti Begoske drew a charging foul. That play sparked the Wildcats, who went on a 14-0 tear — ultimately taking a 26-25 half-time lead.

"It was giant for us to show that resolve against an excellent team and to bounce back from a rough start," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said.

But Harrison's pressure and speed came to the fore, as it outscored Plymouth 13-6 in the third and 17-11 in the fourth.

"The 32 minutes of pres-

sure that Harrison puts on you with their trapping and their ability to fly around the floor certainly broke us down late," Brandon said.

Scoring 10 points for Plymouth was Courtney LaVallee. Kendall Rose chipped in nine, while Paige Slominski and Leah Kliczinski tallied seven each.

Amber Stephens scored 20 points for Harrison (2-1).

PCA 36, RUDOLF STEINER 16: Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls basketball team improved to 2-1 on the season with Tuesday's victory over Rudolf Steiner.

Robin Albert paced the PCA attack with 14 points (along with eight rebounds), while Aliyah Pries scored eight points — all in the second half — and led the team with 10 rebounds.

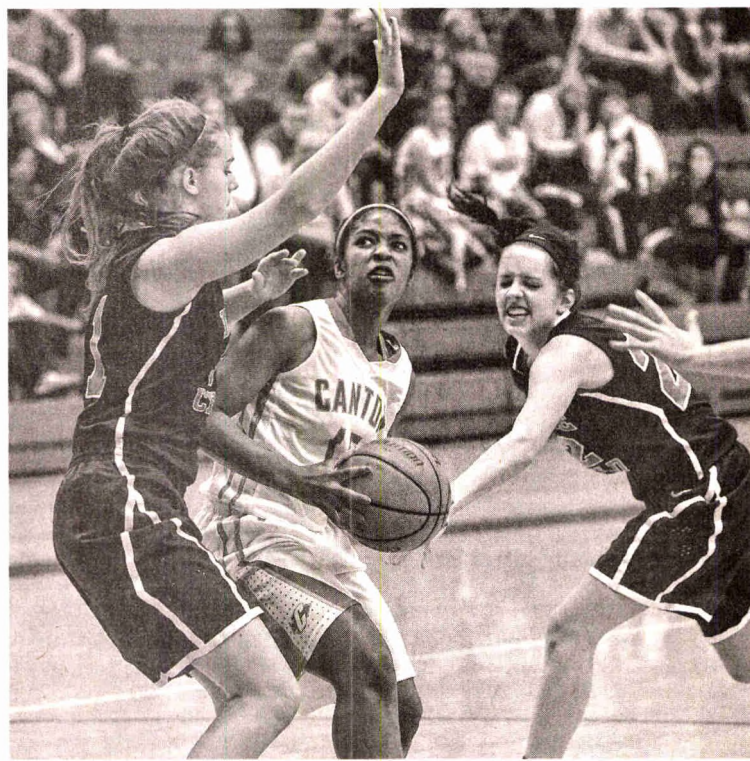
Contributing six points was Danielle Witkowski. The Eagles jumped out to leads of 8-2 after one quarter and 16-6 at halftime.

"We did a good job of moving the ball on offense," PCA head coach Rod Windle said. "Robin had a great game on both ends of the court tonight."

PLYMOUTH (BOYS) 71, REDFORD UNION 50: The Wildcats opened their season Monday night with a blowout victory at Redford Union.

"An explosive fourth quarter kind of stowed it away for us," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said.

Brent Davis led the charge with 24 points, with Randall Aikins (17 points) and Josh Reynolds (11 points) also in double digits for the Wildcats.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Driving the lane Tuesday night for Canton is Alanna Brown.

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

as the head coach, my years as an assistant," Reddy said. "The kid is a coach on the floor, getting kids in the right spot. He does all the right things to represent our family, Canton basketball, outside the court.

"He learned from some good kids. That freshman year, Paul Baumgart was a senior and he kind of latched on to Paul, which was a good decision by him."

Last year, Williams missed the first part of the season recovering from a broken wrist sustained during football. That was a loss for the Chiefs.

"When he wasn't playing last year we missed him, obviously, on the court," Reddy said. "But he still brought leadership qualities every day at practice, at the games and he was helping us out that way.

"If you're a quarterback, you're going to have some natural leadership qualities. Your voice carries some clout, for sure."

Another strong leader in the back court is returning starter Jack Zemanski, recently part of Canton's championship run in varsity boys soccer.

"Jack is just a solid kid," Reddy said about the senior co-captain. "He knows what we're trying to do. He's got a high basketball IQ, smart kid in general who brings good work habits.

"He's been around our program forever; he's the youngest of five children. Two-time state champion in soccer, he's going to be playing soccer somewhere. ... He's another quality, quality kid on our team this year."

Although Williams likely will be the No. 1 option for bringing the ball up the floor, Zemanski can handle those duties with no problem.

Slated for wing guard is junior Obi Okoli, who was on the varsity in 2013-14, but didn't see much action due to injuries.

"I think Obi's going to be a very good player for us at both ends of the floor," Reddy said. "He's got long arms, he can defend, he can rebound, he can score around the rim. He's versatile and he's improved his shooting a lot."

Post potential

In the post will be 6-6 junior forward Logan Ryan and 6-4 junior forward Jalen Cochran, two players who could really catapult the Chiefs with stronger play around the rim.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Another key returnee for Canton is senior guard Jack Zemanski, shown during a 2013-14 game.

Ryan possesses a nifty outside shot, "kind of like (Jordan) Nobles that way, inside and out," Reddy said.

But Reddy would like to see Ryan ramp up his game inside, which is one reason he is working hard with assistant coach Tony Wichman (back with the team after a one-year absence).

"(Ryan) just needs to be tougher in general around the rim," Reddy said. "Whether it's blocking out, whether it's

finishing shots around the rim, whether it's attacking the glass offensively for second and third shots.

"He's got a lot of intangibles and skills that a lot of people don't have. He's going to be effective, to be sure."

Cochran is a hard-working player who provides versatility, simply because he can get it done in the paint or around the perimeter.

"Jalen brings us a little bit of a different look where he's

a big guy, but he can guard a smaller kid because he has such quick feet," Reddy said. "He can also guard a post player because he's a big kid, he's thick, wide, strong.

"He gets his hands on a lot of rebounds. We're working on his jump shot and he's improving offensively around the rim."

Reddy plans on junior forward Hamoudy Turfe and senior wing guard Nick Wendel being part of the rotation, seeing plenty of action.

Turfe, the coach said, "does a nice job handling the ball, he gives us another option. He does a nice job throwing it to the open player on time. Good instincts, good feel for the game. He's another guy that can step out and make an open three for us."

Wendel is back with the Canton basketball program after missing his junior season. Like Zemanski, he was part of the school's recent state championship in boys soccer.

"Nick is pretty athletic, he's got long arms and good skills," Reddy said. "Growing up, he was mostly a guard, someone who handled the ball. So he's got some guard skills and can knock down the open three.

"Missing last year, though, he's still trying to figure out what we're trying to do. He's doing a nice job of picking it up quickly. He's a perimeter guy."

Adding depth

Rounding out the roster are freshman wing guard Noah Brown, junior guard Chris English and junior forward Zhending Hu.

Brown is showing good instinct and a no-fear factor, especially going up against older players.

"Noah has exceptional talent for a young kid in terms of ability to throw it to the open player, finish around the rim," Reddy said. "He's not afraid to go in and rebound for a younger kid against the big kids."

English, who was on the junior varsity last season, could provide a spark off the bench with his outside shooting. "Chris is a streaky shooter who can knock down a few in a row," Reddy said.

Hu is a varsity newcomer who is demonstrating a willingness to get after it around the bucket.

"I love his physicality, his willingness to go rebound at both ends of the floor," Reddy said. "He's got a nice touch around the rim too, for a big kid."

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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Wildcats fall 5-1 to Rochester Unified

The Rochester Unified duo of Marshall Bowery and Max Harper were too much for Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team as RU rolled to a 5-1 win Saturday at the Arctic Edge Arena.

RU dominated the first period, outshot the Wildcats 16-3 and built a 3-0 lead on two goals by Harper and one by Bowery.

"You can't play a first period like we did and expect to compete against a team like Rochester," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said. "We were outshot, outworked and deserved to be down 3-0 after one period."

Plymouth was stronger in the second period and outshot RU 15-7. The Wildcats narrowed the deficit with a power-play goal by junior forward Jake Silvester, who poked home a rebound off a shot from junior forward James Baldwin. Junior defenseman Kyle Kozler also assisted.

RU restored the three-goal lead 1:42 later, when Harper and Bowery quickly turned a Plymouth turnover into a goal. Bowery fired a wrist shot under the crossbar and past Plymouth goalie Erik Vanden-Bosch.

Plymouth threatened with several quality scoring chances during three later power-play opportunities, but RU goalie Jared Myers was flawless for the rest of the game.

Bowery completed his hat trick with a goal 8:35 into the third period to close out the scoring.

RU (6-0) outshot Plymouth 32-25. It was the first time in five games that Plymouth (3-2) was held to less than 30 shots on goal.

"I give my guys credit, they showed some character by playing what I thought was an even second and third period," Vento said. "Unfortunately, it is a three-period game."

Rocks romp, 9-1

On Friday at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia, Salem blitzed KLAAs opponent Livonia Franklin, 9-1.

Scoring twice each for the Rocks (1-1-1) were Zach Golemiak and Zach Newsom.

Single goals were scored by Nick Callegari, Nate West, Noah Willer, Matt Schaumburger and Liam Walker.

Defenseman Noah Saad registered three assists, while Marty Mills and Miles Dougherty each had two.

Making 14 stops for the victory was Salem senior goalie Dillon Phillips.

Franklin's lone goal was scored by captain Brandon Whitney in the first period, which ended with Salem up 2-1.

The Rocks broke the game open with three goals in the middle period.

PENGUINS SPLIT: On Saturday, the Plymouth-Canton Salem Penguins girls hockey team defeated Walled Lake, 4-1.

On Tuesday, the Division 2 Penguins lost a tough 3-2 decision to D1 Grosse Pointe North. PCS rallied from a 3-0 deficit and nearly came all the way back, with goalie Natalie Nowicki superb in defeat with 43 saves.

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

Also thrilled with the move is Plymouth head coach Don Elland, whose team also is without the services of defensemen Gianluca Curcuruto and Yannick Rathgeb.

"Good pick up, big strong stay at home D," noted Elland in a text message Tuesday afternoon. "Great on the PK." Elland added that Calla-

ghan's experience as an OHL overage player "should help us" as the Whalers look for calmer waters during the second half of the season.

Following Saturday's 3-1 home loss to London, the Whalers are 10-16-1-1 and in fourth place in the West Division. Callaghan was originally selected in the seventh round (134th overall) by the Ottawa 67's in the 2010 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection and has enjoyed a productive OHL career.

After playing two years with Ottawa, Callaghan was acquired by Saginaw at the beginning of the 2013-14 season. Last year was his best; he scored eight goals and tallied 11 assists in 66 games.

Against London (17-10-1-1), the Whalers fell behind 2-0 in the second period and could not complete the comeback.

Liam Dunda did score on the power play midway through the third period to cut the Knights' lead to 2-1, but an empty netter in the

final minute closed it out for London.

Making 29 saves for the Whalers was goalie Alex Nedeljkovic.

Plymouth was slated to visit Sault Ste. Marie for a game Wednesday night and travel to London for a Friday night matchup.

The Whalers return to CompuWare for a 7 p.m. Saturday game against Guelph. Fans then will get their first glimpse of Callaghan, who will wear No. 4.

Realtors support Forgotten Harvest at holiday party

Real estate professionals from the Detroit Metro area filled the dining hall of the Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield on Dec. 2 for the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors (GMAR) fourth annual Holiday Party. Attendees gathered to celebrate the end of another busy year in the real estate business by indulging in fresh food catered by Plum Hollow, dancing to live music provided by the Shawn Riley Band of Northville and regaling one another with their tales of 2014.

This event aligns with GMAR's mission to unify the real estate community and strengthen the image of Realtors through the sale of 50/50 raffle tickets, the GMAR family raised almost \$500 to be donated to Forgotten Harvest. This is in addition to the over \$3,000 donated from Golf Outing proceeds held this past September. Combining donations collected at the General Membership Meeting last month and the Holiday Party, eight heaping crates full of nonperishable food items have been contributed to the cause of feeding the hungry in the Detroit area through Forgotten Harvest.

"We are so grateful for the support of our Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors," said Forgotten Harvest CEO Kirk Mayes. "With nearly one in five people facing hunger or food insecurity in our area, it is vital that we work with our corporate and community partners to be certain that no child, no senior or no family go hungry in metro Detroit."

"I am very amazed and proud of the commitment and involvement of our Members. GMAR is a true leader in the industry having the members and support for such a great event," said GMAR Member Services Committee Chair James Iodice.

Committee Liaison Elaine Gatlin stated, "The success of our programs this year is the result of the support we've received from our members, our sponsors and the Member Services Committee." The Greater Metropolitan



Fun was found at the GMAR party, along with support for Forgotten Harvest, which works to fight hunger in Metro Detroit.



Dancing to live music provided by the Shawn Riley Band of Northville was part of the fun at the Dec. 2 party.

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monthly electronic magazine. GMAR's mission is to be the leading resource for the real estate community in Southeast Michigan. Visit www.GMARonline.com to learn more.

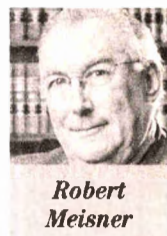
Check with attorney on enforcement of rules

Q: Our homeowner association board has not been enforcing various rules for a number of years. Now we have a more active board who wants to start doing so. What do you suggest that we do to help with this situation?

A: It is important that you don't abruptly start enforcing previously overlooked rules since reviving these rules may be delicate matter. I would remind members of the value of rules, tell the members that previously overlooked rules will once again be enforced, but only do so with your lawyer's advice. Say that the board won't necessarily enforce rules retroactively, and explain that the board will give members a grace period in certain circumstances. Again, this is a precarious area and you may not even want to concede that you were not enforcing rules previously. That is why a legal opinion is in order.

Q: Our association manager may have violated the Fair Housing Act by denying a lease extension without the board's knowledge. Do you think the manager has any liability?

A: Yes, particularly if there is a situation where he did not seek approval from the Board of Directors in terms of the direction and there is any type of discrimination on the basis of familial status. Indeed, in a recent case out of Florida, the court denied the management company's request to be dismissed from the case determining that it could be "vicariously" liable if the manager is found liable for what he did. Since the plaintiff in that case adequately stated a claim against the manager, the claim against the management company was also viable and there may be indemnification rights by the association against the managing company and agent if the contract was properly reviewed to begin with counsel for the association.



Robert Meisner

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 28 to Aug. 1, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
165 Charrington Ct	\$363,000
12 Riverbank Dr	\$600,000
200 Turnberry Ct	\$875,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
23140 Hickory Hollow Dr	\$368,000
BIRMINGHAM	
731 Chapin Ave	\$365,000
1638 Hanley Ct	\$282,000
1551 Holland St	\$626,000
1059 N Old Woodward Ave	\$279,000
1736 Pierce St	\$550,000
947 Puritan Ave	\$1,150,000
1336 Ruffner Ave	\$244,000
1978 Sheffield Rd	\$355,000
722 Wallace St	\$1,200,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
4383 Ardmore Dr	\$501,000
244 E Berkshire Rd	\$162,000
905 W Harsdale Rd	\$828,000
42160 Woodward Ave Unit 18	\$102,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
3530 Bloomfield Club Dr	\$450,000
2626 Bridle Rd	\$243,000
376 Concord Pl # 4	\$62,000
4090 Cranbrook Ct	\$368,000
5574 Fieldston Ct	\$450,000
6465 Maple Hills Dr	\$216,000
928 Mitchell Ct	\$1,190,000
1631 S Hill Blvd	\$127,000

42160 Woodward Ave Unit 18	\$130,000
COMMERCER TOWNSHIP	
3100 Brookneal St	\$111,000
5290 Carroll Lake Rd	\$71,000
5290 Carroll Lake Rd	\$130,000
3222 Edgewood Park Ct	\$225,000
8219 Hearthstone Ct	\$287,000
5886 Majestic Oaks Dr	\$440,000
5667 Ottingshire St	\$165,000
3645 Sandbar Dr	\$315,000
8644 War Bonnet Dr	\$175,000
FARMINGTON	
35451 Heritage Ln	\$135,000
22800 Lake Way	\$200,000
36641 Lansbury Ln	\$200,000
34986 Oakland St	\$231,000
36436 Vicary Ln	\$223,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
29154 Aranel St	\$190,000
27825 Berrywood Ln Unit 47	\$76,000
34262 Commons Dr	\$308,000
27690 E Echo Vly Unit 224	\$65,000
22775 Glenmoor Hts	\$122,000
22775 Glenmoor Hts	\$55,000
29889 Harrow Dr	\$445,000
21184 Larabee Ct	\$370,000
21704 Middlebelt Rd	\$18,000
29530 Mirlon Dr	\$242,000
28927 Oak Point Dr	\$301,000
26025 Pillsbury St	\$245,000
22290 River Ridge Trl	\$154,000
36492 Rutherford Ct	\$217,000
23042 Watt Dr	\$300,000
26228 Westmeath St	\$209,000
22172 Wingate Ct	\$250,000
HIGHLAND	
298 Carnoustie	\$410,000

637 Edinburgh Cir	\$290,000
4020 N Hickory Ridge Rd	\$214,000
3230 Ramada Dr	\$403,000
3720 Woodland Dr	\$160,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE	
18450 San Jose Blvd	\$165,000
18150 Wiltshire Blvd	\$163,000
MILFORD	
625 Hickory St	\$360,000
3300 Quinney Trl	\$365,000
1444 Rowe Rd	\$280,000
647 Sleepy Holw	\$425,000
464 Village Ln	\$125,000
NORTHVILLE	
22043 Lujon Dr	\$125,000
914 Pond Island Ct	\$560,000
999 Shannon Ct	\$481,000
NOVI	
22142 Antler Dr	\$395,000
27318 Benjamins Way	\$340,000
42914 Brookstone Dr	\$310,000
28323 Carlton Way Dr	\$195,000
21992 Clover Ln	\$298,000
22099 Clover Ln	\$255,000
27633 Cromwell Rd	\$253,000
22635 Evergreen Ct	\$199,000
22527 Havergale St	\$390,000
26420 Island Lake Dr	\$325,000
25804 Lochmoor Ln	\$440,000
25840 Lochmoor Ln	\$439,000
41500 Mitchell Rd	\$200,000
23369 Mystic Forest Dr	\$378,000
25476 Sullivan Ln	\$400,000
22833 Summer Ln	\$555,000
22926 Talford St	\$88,000
23408 W Le Bost	\$182,000
45578 White Pines Dr	\$435,000
46000 White Pines Dr	\$520,000
SOUTH LYON	
1035 Arabian Ct	\$315,000

26960 Bluegrass Ct	\$379,000
1143 Chestnut Ln	\$270,000
23190 Cheyenne Ct	\$458,000
26162 Cornell Dr	\$387,000
57275 Hidden Timbers Dr	\$342,000
58251 Holland Dr	\$77,000
58392 Holland Dr	\$327,000
456 Orchard Rdg	\$150,000
24580 Padstone Dr	\$77,000
24245 Ravine Dr	\$2,000
24384 Ravine Dr	\$2,000
24522 Ravine Dr	\$2,000
972 S Parkwood Dr	\$255,000
23360 Spy Glass Hl N	\$400,000
58480 Well Cress Ct	\$80,000
58504 Well Cress Ct	\$96,000
935 Wood Run	\$289,000
SOUTHFIELD	
27450 Aberdeen St	\$140,000
17521 Alta Vista Dr	\$291,000
23224 Cornerstone Village Dr	\$65,000
24393 Evergreen Rd	\$88,000
28106 Fairfax St	\$68,000
19308 Greenwald Dr	\$178,000
21634 Hidden Rivers Dr S	\$24,000
15682 Jeanette St	\$250,000
17090 Jeanette St	\$275,000
28606 Regent Ct N	\$60,000
20350 Rodeo Ct	\$110,000
17361 Roseland Blvd	\$57,000
23445 Russell St	\$120,000
16075 Stratford Dr	\$136,000
WHITE LAKE	
1869 Crystal Ln	\$278,000
8775 Eastway Dr	\$45,000
8876 Tackles Dr	\$185,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 18-22, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
42658 Colling Dr	\$198,000
7051 Epping Dr	\$252,000
997 Foothill Rd	\$255,000
43672 Gatehouse Ct	\$225,000
50131 Harding St	\$113,000
7474 Haverhill Ln	\$449,000
1248 Lasalle Rd	\$490,000
401 S Ridge Rd	\$230,000
3635 Shepherd Ln	\$220,000

43787 Sweet Cherry Ln	\$156,000
42172 Tonquish Ct	\$176,000
51159 Upland View St	\$50,000
GARDEN CITY	
6868 Harrison St	\$66,000
LIVONIA	
30791 Six Mile Rd	\$169,000
32565 Six Mile Rd	\$150,000
19167 Augusta Dr	\$295,000
27709 Bobrich St	\$150,000
32949 Brookside Cir	\$230,000
9811 Doris St	\$132,000
32446 Hees St	\$147,000
8955 Henry Ruff Rd	\$143,000
16694 Levan Rd	\$256,000
14056 Mayfield St	\$220,000

19847 Merriman Rd	\$135,000
17555 Middlebelt Rd	\$155,000
29117 Perth St	\$170,000
34804 Summers St	\$265,000
18377 University Park Dr	\$99,000
30941 Wentworth St	\$199,000
15152 Yale St	\$185,000
NORTHVILLE	
19527 Dartmouth Pl	\$114,000
16664 Lyonhurst Cir	\$268,000
48344 Manorwood Dr	\$830,000
19580 Northridge Dr	\$102,000
16131 Oakwood Ct	\$300,000
16538 Sherwood Ln	\$573,000
39780 Walker Ct	\$244,000
PLYMOUTH	
9090 Brookline Ave	\$75,000

10205 Creekwood Cir	\$369,000
41890 E Ann Arbor Trl	\$158,000
500 Ford St	\$65,000
43808 Joy Rd	\$250,000
40869 Newport Dr	\$100,000
REDFORD	
26409 Clarita	\$74,000
18656 Lennane	\$26,000
WAYNE	
38514 Laurenwood St	\$144,000
WESTLAND	
36500 McKinney Ave	\$238,000
251 S Christine	\$85,000

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AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.75	0	2.99	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.75	0	2.99	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.125	0	3.25	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.125	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	1.125	2.875	0.25
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.125	0	3.375	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.25	0

Above information available as of 12/4/14 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

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Must be able to manage multiple priorities, programs and be dedicated to exceptional customer service. Develop new business and grow market share by using a variety of customer centric sales programs and audience solutions. Make solid marketing presentations that sell the value, provide customer centric audience solutions and close the sale.

If you are seeking a position that will allow you to be a strategic seller working with a multi-platform, market leading team in a culture that thrives on creating and executing big ideas that provide solutions to benefit the prosperity of customers, then we encourage you to apply today to join our team!

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in marketing, advertising or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- 3+ years of related experience is required.
- A strong understanding of digital media platforms to include search engine marketing, social media, online display, mobile & other digital solutions.
- Documented record of success in a goal-oriented, highly accountable environment.
- Ability to conduct a needs assessment, identify marketing and advertising solutions for clients, develop proposals and experience in delivering sales presentations.
- Technical proficiency in Microsoft Office especially PowerPoint and Excel.
- Experience with CRM technology, Salesforce.com preferred

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Due to Fire, Handicap Lady Looking for 2x/3x women's clothing & Full/King Bed. (Livonia area) 734.367.0556

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Send resume to: ElectrobitAutomotive@amencas.com, 22745 - 29th Drive SE Ste 200 Bothell WA 98021. Job ref # VDD04.

PALLIATIVE MEDICINE PHYSICIAN
Wanted to provide palliative medicine medical care to patients. Work location: Royal Oak, MI.
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RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: The meditation theme is "Waiting With The Old Testament Church"

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 13

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: Pancakes and sausage; \$6, \$4 for age 8 and under; picture with Santa, \$9

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 7575 Hix, Westland

Details: Nativity displays, Christmas message, musical performances, kids craft, refreshments

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills

Details: The Cantata Academy Chorale performs a mix of old and new holiday music. Admission is a donation of \$15 per person or \$25 per family

Contact: 248-474-6170, Ext. 208

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: St Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: The concert is divided into two parts of roughly 30 minutes each. The first half consists of popular Christmas songs performed by soloists, small groups, and handbell ringers, and the second half is the cantata, *Were You There on That Christmas Night?* sung by the combined choirs of St Timothy and Kirk of Our Savior of Westland, with special guest percussionist Peter Falk. A free-will donation will be accepted

Contact: 734 464-8844, sttimothy@sttimothypercusa.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield

Details: Northwest Choir and One Voice Chorus present a holiday concert to benefit the Ruth Ellis Center, a residence for LGBT runaway teens. Suggested donation \$10-\$20

Contact: 248-354-4488; north-westuu.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, 35320 Glenwood, Westland

Details: Christian rock band Wise For Salvation will perform and accompany singing of



SUBMITTED

Cantata Academy Chorale performs a concert of holiday music, Dec. 13 at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

traditional and contemporary Christmas songs

Contact: 734-721-5377

CONCERT

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: Holy Land Christmas Concerts includes carols and hymns

Contact: 734-422-0010; saintmarylivonia

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. early bird sale, 10 a.m. regular sale, Dec. 13

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Christmas cookies will cost \$7.50 per pound. Other baked goods will be priced by the item. Admission is \$2 for the early bird sale; free for regular start time

Contact: 734-751-6464

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: Doors open 7:30 a.m.; sale starts 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: 36075 Seven Mile, Livonia

Details: Pierogis, nut, apricot, poppy seed breads, sweet breads, candies, fancy and European cookies. Pre-packaged gift boxes of cookies also available

Contact: 248-476-3432

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Excerpts from Bach's *Magnificat*, along with carols and other songs; tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and students

Contact: www.detroitluthersingers.com

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec.

14

Location: St. Aidan, located on the east side of Farmington Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia

Details: Features the ensembles and members of St. Aidan Music Ministry. Admission is a \$5 donation or two canned food goods for Christmas food baskets for the needy

Contact: 734-425-5950

WORSHIP, DIAPER DRIVE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Location: Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn

Details: Southfield-based Empowerment Church holds a special worship service featuring gospel artist J. Moss and message by Rev. Carlyle Fielding Stewart III. Diaper donations will be collected for Lighthouse of Oakland County, to aid families in need

Contact: Contact@EmpowermentMI.org

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanief Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back.

Details: Music, singing, prayer

Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 14

mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrog.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451

St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

Passages View Online
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances www.hometownlife.com

How to reach us:
 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.mideathnotices.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
 Holiday deadlines are subject to change.



ERLENBUSCH, DORCAS IRENE (ROOT)

93, of Canton, MI, passed away peacefully at home on December 4, 2014. Her memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2014, at First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main Street, Northville, MI, followed by luncheon and shared memories. Dorcas was born in London, England, on June 15, 1921. She was married to Christian Erlenbusch for 63 years, and was a member of the Daughters of the British Empire, Firth of Clyde Chapter, since 1970. Dorcas is survived by her four children, Robert, Janet (Jack) Needham, Susan (Wendy) Christilaw, Marian (Scott) Freisthler; three grandchildren, Jennifer, Christian, and Bonnie; and two great-grandchildren, Rachel and Aurora. Dorcas is preceded in death by her parents, three sisters, and husband. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to National Multiple Sclerosis Society (www.nationalmssociety.org), Daughters of the British Empire, c/o Patricia Pike, 7792 Anchor Bay Dr., Algonac, MI 48001, checks payable to: DBE in Michigan.



KEISER, ROGER L.

Age 78, of Levering, passed away at Tencardere of Clare on December 5, 2014. Roger was born on March 17, 1936, in Dearborn, MI, to Leon and Mary (Perron) Keiser. He graduated from Pellston High School in 1955. He worked for Procter & Gamble as a mechanic in Cheboygan until his retirement. He married Thayer Roueche, July 29, 1989, and together they divided their time between their homes in Levering and Florida. He was an active member of the Levering Lions for many years and enjoyed hunting and traveling. He also enjoyed building and flying model airplanes. Roger is survived by his five children: Bambi (James) Perry of Clare; Yvette (Daniel) Majestic of Manchester, TN; Colette (Rodney) Sullins of Lake Orion; Roger C. Keiser and Anita Keiser, both of Parma, OH; Ron (Elizabeth) Keiser of Madison Heights; eleven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Deanna Capen of Melvindale and three brothers: Jerald (Ann) Keiser of South Lyon, Charles (Elizabeth) Keiser of Melvindale, and Dennis (Evelyn) Keiser of Lincoln Park, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Thayer, brother, Ronald and his parents. A memorial service for family and friends is scheduled for Saturday, January 17th at 11:00 am at Nordman-Christian Funeral Home in Cheboygan, MI. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Michigan or The American Cancer Society.

SNYDER, EDMUND C.
 Dec. 8, 2014. Age 100. Mass Friday 10 a.m. St. Theodore Catholic Church 8200 N. Wayne Rd. L. J. Griffin Funeral Home

May you find comfort in family & friends

Honor the Memory and Celebrate the Life of passed loved ones by placing a Special Holiday Tribute. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a Special Tribute during the holidays. Here is the perfect opportunity to share your thoughts of loved ones who hold a special place in your hearts.

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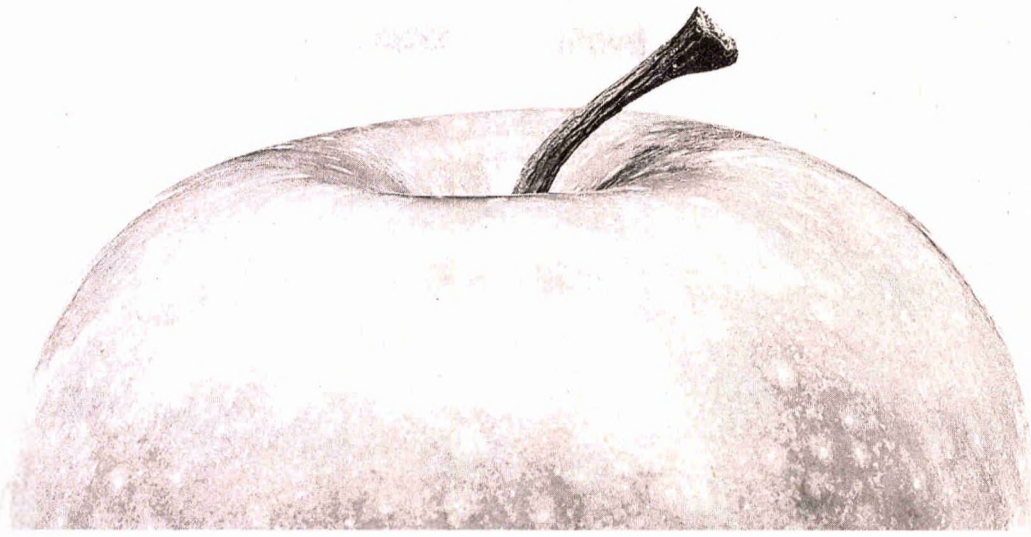
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 Conf



Michigan apple recipe could be your ticket to Florida



The Michigan Apple Committee (MAC) is offering two apple recipe contests this month.

Recipes for apple pie, apple desserts and apple sandwiches are due Dec. 19 for the annual contest held during Zehnder's Snowfest in Frankenmuth. The Grand Prize winner of the event, held Jan. 21, 2015, will receive a round trip flight and entry into the World Food Championships planned for November 2015 in Kissimmee, Fla.

Prizes will be awarded in each of the three apple recipe categories for first, second and third place.

All first-place winners will receive \$100, a KitchenAid Mixer, 40 pounds of Pioneer Sugar, 40 pounds of Nightingale Pastry Flour, two tickets to a Zehnder's dinner show of the winner's

choice, and a Michigan Apple gift basket. They'll advance to the Grand Prize Competition.

All second-place winners will receive \$100, 20 pounds of Pioneer Sugar, 20 pounds of Nightingale Pastry Flour, dinner for four to Zehnder's of Frankenmuth, a Michigan Apple gift basket, and will advance to the Grand Prize Competition.

All third-place winners will receive \$50, 10 pounds of Pioneer Sugar, 10 pounds of Nightingale Pastry Flour, dinner for two to Zehnder's of Frankenmuth, and a Michigan Apple gift basket.

Registration forms are available at MichiganApples.com. Mail form, recipes and a \$5 registration fee per recipe to Zehnder's Snowfest, Michigan Apple Recipe Contest, 730 S. Main St.,

Frankenmuth, MI 48734. Recipes must include Michigan apples.

The Michigan Apple Committee also is looking for talented amateur cooks to submit their favorite Michigan apple recipe for the 2014 Michigan Apple Amateur Recipe Contest. The contest will run through Jan. 31, 2015.

Judges will consider taste, originality, preparation, and apple significance. The three highest scoring recipes will receive a KitchenAid Stand Mixer.

Find entry forms and rules at MichiganApples.com.

Need a little inspiration before you submit your entry? Try these recipes from Michigan Apple Committee.



APPLE NOODLE KUGEL

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 1 hour
Yield: 18 servings as side dish

1 bag of extra wide egg noodles
1 stick of butter
1 15-ounce container of ricotta cheese
1 16-ounce container of sour cream
½ cup cinnamon apple sauce
4 large eggs
¾ cup white sugar
½ cup of brown sugar
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon honey
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons maple syrup
¼ teaspoon of nutmeg
2 medium Michigan Northern Spy, Cortland, or Honeycrisp, peeled, cored, and diced
1 ½ cups crushed Frosted Flakes, mixed with ¼ teaspoon cinnamon and 2 tablespoons melted butter

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large pot, bring 8 cups of water to boil with 1 teaspoon salt. Add dry egg noodles and boil for 7 minutes.

Drain and return the noodles back to the pot. Add butter and stir until melted. Leave in the pot while you prepare the rest of the ingredients.

In a food processor, add ricotta, sour cream, apple sauce, sugar, eggs, vanilla, maple syrup, cinnamon, nutmeg, and honey. Pulse until mixed and smooth. Pour the mixture over the noodles and stir until the noodles are well coated. Add the apples and mix well. Pour into a greased 13- by 9-inch baking dish and top with the Frosted Flakes mixture.

Bake for 1 hour. If the cereal starts to burn, cover with foil for the remainder of the cooking time. Remove from oven and let cool for 5 to 10 minutes before cutting.

APPLE-GRILLED CHEESE "SANDWICHES"

Cooking time: 3 minutes plus apple prep 25-30 minutes
Yield: 6 sandwiches

Ingredients for pound cake
2 sticks unsalted butter (room temperature)
4 eggs (large, at room temperature)
2 cups plus 2 tablespoons sugar
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon nutmeg
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon salt
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract

Ingredients for apples
2 cups thinly sliced apples (A mixture of McIntosh, Gala, and Fuji or your favorite Michigan apples), peeled and cored
2 tablespoons butter
¼ cup brown sugar (light or dark), plus 2 tablespoons white sugar
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
¼ teaspoon cinnamon

Instructions for pound cake:
Aerate the flour with a whisk and add the cinnamon and nutmeg to the flour.

Cream the butter until light and fluffy. Slowly add the sugar while mixing. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each egg. Mix in vanilla and salt. Add the flour mixture, on low mixer speed, about ½ cup at a time, until all flour and spice is incorporated.

Put batter into a greased and floured loaf pan and place in a cold oven (do no preheat). Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 40 minutes. Cake is done when pick or knife inserted in center comes out clean and top is crusty.

Instructions for assembling and cooking the sandwiches:
Cut the pound cake into 12 thin slices. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in grill pan (add more butter to each sandwich).

For each sandwich, place a slice of cake into melted butter and top with a slice of cheddar cheese, about ¼ cup of apple mixture, another slice of cheese, and another slice of cake. Cook at medium heat for about 2-3 minutes on each side to melt the cheese.

Serve warm with an optional dollop of whipped cream.

TOPSY-TURVY SALTED CARAMEL APPLE DUMPLINGS

Prep time: 1 hour
Cook time: 35 minutes
Yield: 6 dumplings

1 8-ounce roll of phyllo dough, thawed
1 cup butter, melted
5 cups tart apples (Cortland or Honeycrisp), peeled, cored, chopped
1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon lemon juice
¼ cup pecans, chopped
¼ cup dark corn syrup
½ cup brown sugar
¼ cup butter, melted
1 teaspoon sea salt
Spray oil or butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray sides and bottom of 6-count large muffin pan.

Combine apples, sugar, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg in a large saucepan. Cook apples over medium heat for about 15 minutes until tender. (Apples should be slightly crunchy.) Add lemon juice and remove from heat.

In a separate bowl, combine pecans, corn syrup, brown sugar and butter. Pour mixture into bottom of muffin pan, dividing mixture evenly between all 6 cups.

Unroll phyllo and cut in half so you have two 4½- by 7-inch sections. Remove a single sheet and brush with butter. Repeat with another sheet and place on top of first sheet, crisscrossing sheet. Repeat until you have 6 layers.

Press into muffin cup on top of pecan mixture. Pour apple mixture into opening and cover with overhanging phyllo dough, brushing with butter after each fold. Brush top with butter. Repeat with remaining muffin cups.

Place muffin pan on a cookie sheet and bake for 30 to 35 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from oven and allow dumplings to cool for 5 minutes. Invert dumplings onto serving plate. Sprinkle with salt and serve warm.

FRESH MICHIGAN APPLE & PORK CASSOULET

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 45 minutes
Yield: 4 servings

4 pork chops (bone in), preferably thick
1 cup chicken stock
½ cup apple cider
1 cup onion, sliced
1 ½ cups mushrooms, sliced
1 cup fresh cherry tomatoes, halved
1 can (about 15 ounces) white beans, drained
3 medium Michigan McIntosh apples, cored and cubed
4 tablespoons coconut oil
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper (or less to taste)
Salt and pepper to taste

Place a large frying pan on high heat and add 2 tablespoons coconut oil.

Season both sides of the pork chops with garlic powder, cayenne, salt and pepper. Add the pork chops in batches to the hot pan (don't over crowd the pan) and brown each side of the chops (about 3 - 4 minutes per side). Remove from the pan and hold.

Add the remaining 2 tablespoons of coconut oil to the pan and add the onions, mushrooms and tomatoes. Sauté for 7 - 8 minutes until they have browned and given off some liquid. Scrape the bottom of the pan to remove the fond. Add the chicken stock to deglaze the pan working all the caramelized fond pieces into the mix. Bring to a boil.

Clear a space in the pan for 2 of the chops. Spoon the vegetable and fruit mixture over the chops and clear a space for the other 2 chops, nestling the chops into the vegetable mix completely.

Cover with a lid. Turn the heat to low and cook for about 20 minutes or until the pork is tender. Add the white beans and apples to the pan and cook another 5 - 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

FIVE-STEP MICHIGAN APPLE PIE

Yield: 8 servings

1 package (9 ounce) Jiffy Pie Crust Mix
7 cups thinly sliced peeled tart Michigan apples, such as Ida Red, Rome, Empire, Gala, Jonagold, Jonathan, McIntosh
1 cup Michigan sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 tablespoon butter, cut into small pieces
1 (12 ounce) container T. Marzetti's caramel apple dip

Prepare pie crust according to package directions for 2 crust pie. Place bottom crust in 9-inch pie dish. Combine apples, sugar, cornstarch, lemon juice, cinnamon and nutmeg in large bowl. Toss gently to evenly coat apple slices. Spread filling evenly over bottom crust. Dot with pieces of butter.

Moisten edge of lower crust lightly with water. Cover with top crust, trim and flute edges. Cut 3 slits in top crust for venting. Bake in preheated 400°F oven 40 to 45 minutes or until crust is golden and apples are tender when pierced with a fork. To prevent over browning, cover edge of pie crust with foil. Remove during last 20 minutes of baking.

Serve warm pieces of apple pie drizzled with T. Marzetti's Caramel Apple Dip just before serving. Heat dip to drizzle easily.



Bob Elocinik (left), Keith Davis and Cayetano Garcia jazz it up at Schoolcraft College. The school's Jazz Ensemble will perform finger-snapping holiday tunes Dec. 15 at its Winter Wonders concert.



The saxophone section in the Jazz Ensemble performs at Schoolcraft College.

Ensembles jazz up holiday tunes at Schoolcraft College show

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The weather forecast for Monday, Dec. 15 — sunny with spring-like temperatures — is like music to Rick Selva's ears.

"Last year, remember how horrible the winter was? The first horrible snow of the season was on the day of our winter concert. I-275 was like a skating rink," said Selva, Ph.D., director of the Jazz Studies Program at Schoolcraft College and its two performing groups, the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Improvisation Combo. "And the last big snow — in April — was on my spring concert."

The snowy weather discouraged some concertgoers from attending the annual Winter Wonders show last year. Selva hopes for a bigger crowd when the musicians take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the DiPonio Room at the VisTaTech Center on the main campus, 18600 Haggerty, in Livonia. Admission is free.

"I'm an optimist. We've had 350 to 450 people and usually get at least 250."



Jazz singers belt out a tune, accompanied by the Jazz Ensemble, at Schoolcraft College.

Guests can don their dancing shoes for the annual winter show, now in its sixth year, and are welcome to respond vocally, with finger snaps, hand clapping — whatever gets them moving to the music.

"We open up the dance floor. The nature of the jazz concert is to get involved and respond, shout something out, clap. At one of our winter concerts we had such a huge crowd, it was startling. We had such response between songs and solos. The crowd added so much energy. It was fantastic," he said. "I usually say something to let them know the nature of a jazz is interactive,

that they can feel free to express their appreciation for what's going on."

Original work

Selva will direct the Jazz Ensemble, the larger of the two groups, in performing one of his own compositions, *Lullaby for a King* at the upcoming concert. He originally wrote the music for an Epiphany concert in 2011 at St. Cyprian Church in Riverview. The Jazz Ensemble performed the piece, which led to the group's tour of Chicago, Ill., that same year. The group hasn't played the song since its tour.

"There is a dark quality to it, but it's beautiful

and gentle. It could be played any time of the year, but this works out well," Selva said. "It's seasonal. Not overtly...it sets a mood."

The show will include a medley of Christmas music, Count Basie's *Jingle Bells*, a few Gershwin standards, *Christmas Time Is Here* by Vince Guaraldi, among other songs.

Selva generally includes a holiday arrangement by Ralph Carmichael, former arranger for Stan Kenton, in his winter show. This year the group will play *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

"They are very sophisticated and classy," he

said, describing the Carmichael arrangements. "And they use additional instruments. They use mellophone in the original recordings. And French horns." Selva's groups will use more traditional jazz instruments, such as saxophone, but will include concert percussion in the piece.

Unusual sound

However, audience members may be surprised to see an accordion included in the ensemble. Bob Elocinik, a member for three years, plays the instrument, adding "unique tonal color" to the music. "It's a mix between

keyboard and wind instrument and it has a nice tone," Selva said.

Longtime, core members of the Jazz Ensemble and the Jazz Improvisation Combo have played with the bands for 10 years. Some students stay for two years and then move on to a four-year college, but return to Selva's bands after earning their degrees.

"I have people of all ages and backgrounds. I have a faithful core of people who have been in the groups from before I was hired. I have people come back and play after they get their teaching degrees. Music teachers come back to keep their music alive."

The groups meet once weekly during the semester. Musicians can sign up as continuing education students or for credit.

"You can do it for \$60 (continuing education) or \$80 for the improv class," Selva said. "Schoolcraft has so many attractive features and it's very reasonable."

For more about the Jazz Studies Program at Schoolcraft or the Winter Wonders Concert, visit schoolcraft.edu/music.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Wildlife art: The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition — a collection of images from the world's largest and most prestigious wildlife photography competition — runs through March 23, 2015, and is free with zoo admission. It features 100 images from winners of the 2013 competition.

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Jan. 9, 2015

Location: The Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Michigan Weavers Guild exhibit

Contact: 248-473-1859

VAAL HOLIDAY SHOPPE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, through Dec. 14

Location: Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL), 37653 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: One-of-a-kind holiday gifts created by area artisans include pottery, fiber, hand blown glass, jewelry and other accessories, wood items, clothing, ornaments and framed. Items in every price range.

Contact: 734-838-1204; vaal-art.org



Lac La Belle, the acoustic duo of Nick Schillace and Jennie Knaggs, will perform Friday, Dec. 12, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

FILM PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *Miracle on 34th Street*, admission \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 19 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 20

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: *White Christmas*, \$5; Santa visits the theater — bring your camera

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through Dec. 28

Location: Second floor in the Community Gallery at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave.,

Detroit

Details: Fourteen stained glass windows that were installed at the original St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, built in 1929 and closed in 2005 in Farmington Hills, are on display. Admission is free

Contact: 313-833-7935

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through Dec. 21

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: The exhibit, "Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan," consists of 82 artifacts, including ceramics, glass, metal, textiles, paintings, illuminated manuscripts and wood

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 11, 2015

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit features scenes from stories and movies, such as



Scrooge meets the first of three spirits in Motor City Youth Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 12-14 in Livonia.

Elf, *Polar Express* and *A Christmas Carol*. Santa visits every Sunday until Christmas and will be on hand for the annual craft bazaar and open house, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Crafty Elves Workshop: Children, ages 5-11, can make gifts and decorations at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. \$10 per child. Sign up online or by calling the museum

Contact: 734-455-8940

HOLIDAY LIGHTS LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: Lightfest hours 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

Location: Along four miles of Hines Drive; enter at 7651 Merriman, between Warren Road and Ann Arbor Trail, in Westland

Details: Drive by 55 holiday light displays; admission is \$5 per car.

Contact: 734-261-1990; parks.waynecounty.com

MILL LIGHTING

Time/Date: 3:30-5:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: Nankin Mills In-

terpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland

Details: Mill lighting with holiday crafts, games, prizes for children, a sing-along, refreshments and visit with Santa. No charge for visit with Santa and lighting, but crafts and games cost \$6 per child and \$2 per adult for Wayne County residents and \$7 per child and \$3 per adult for nonresidents

Contact: waynecounty.com; 734-261-1990

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 5-7, 11-14, 18-23 and 26-31

Location: The Detroit Zoo, I-696 service drive at Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak

Details: The event includes photos with Santa Paws, carousel rides, The Polar Express 4-D Experience, ice carving, arts and crafts. Admission for ages 2 and older is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate; parking is \$6 per car. Buy tickets online at www.detroitzoo.org/events/wild-lights, at Detroit Zoo main admissions, or Kroger stores

Contact: 248-541-5717

MUSIC BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show runs 7-9:30 p.m., third Thursday of the month

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Ten open mic spots will be available on Saturday, Dec. 20. The featured group is The Sorenson Family. \$5 at the door.

Contact: sccludwig@aol.com or 734-453-0869

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: The Sphinx Virtuosi, comprised of 18 top African American and Latino classical soloists, alumni of the Sphinx Competition, perform, led by the Catalyst Quartet. Tickets are \$25

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 13

Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills

Details: Metropolitan Opera soprano Heidi Murphy and pianist Menahem Pressler perform works by Schubert, Mozart, Schumann and Debussy. Tickets are \$30-\$60; students with ID pay \$15-\$30

Contact: 248-855-6070; ChamberMusicDetroit.org

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: On Tuesday, Dec. 30,

CALENDAR

Continued from Page B10

Judie Cochill will perform with the Ron Kischuk Trio. \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

JAZZ CAFE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 28

Location: Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit

Details: Phredley Brown, instrumentalist, and Bruno Mars musical director and vocalist, perform along with Alesha Nicole, and longtime friend and drummer, Paul Loos, arranger and director for the drum line at Lake Orion High School. Tickets are \$10

Contact: 313-887-8501; ticket-master.com

PIKE ROOM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: At the Crofoot, 1 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac

Details: Livonia-based band, Royale, performs at this CD-release party for its album, *Abbey's Art*. \$12 at the door

Contact: 248-858-9333

REDFORD CIVIC SYMPHONY

Time/Date: 6:15-8:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11

Location: Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford

Details: Audition for the Symphony. Be prepared to play a scale, musical selection of your choice and sight read a short piece

Contact: redfordsymphony.org

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Walter Salas Humara and Jonathan Rundman, Dec. 11; Lac La Belle and Rollie Tussing, Dec. 12; Lorelie, Dec. 13; Kerosene Halo featuring Mike Roe and Derri Daugherty, Dec. 14; Open Stage, Dec. 16 and 30; Finvarra's Wren annual Winter Solstice Celebration, Dec. 19. Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted.

Contact: 734-464-6302 for additional information

THEATER BAREFOOT PRODUCTIONS



SUBMITTED

Danielle Belen, winner of the 2008 Sphinx Competition, will appear with Sphinx alumni, Dec. 12 at the Berman Center for Performing Arts, West Bloomfield.

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 12-13 and 2 p.m. Dec. 14

Location: 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Details: *The Desk Set* is a comedy that tells the story of Bunny Watson, head of the reference department of a large broadcasting corporation in Manhattan, and her "girls" who find their jobs in jeopardy when Richard Sumner, an efficiency expert, invades their department. Tickets are \$15

Contact: justgobarefoot.com; 734-560-1493

EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11-21

Location: The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington, Ypsilanti

Details: Two holiday one-act plays include *No Room at the Big Sleep Inn* by Tim Henning and *The Office Party* by Paul Bianchi. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 seniors and students with I.D., available at the door by cash or check, or online at www.emergentarts.com

Contact: 734-985-0875 for pay-at-the-door reservations

LIVONIA FAMILY YMCA

Time/Date: Doors open 6 p.m., show starts 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12-13

Location: Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: *Sleeping Beauty*, admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, 3 and over, free for children under 3

Contact: 734-261-2161

MOTOR CITY YOUTH THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 12-13, and 2 p.m. Dec. 14

Location: 27555 Grantland, Livonia

Details: *A Christmas Carol*; tickets are \$8 for seniors and students and \$10 for adults. The cast is collecting canned goods at each show for donation to Redford Interfaith Relief food pantry. For tickets, visit eventbrite.com, type in *A Christmas Carol* in the search box and Livonia in the location box

Contact: Nancy Florkowski at 313-535-8962

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 11-13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Location: Inspire Theatre, 5767 Executive Drive, Westland

Details: Local youth will bring toys, elves, reindeer and Santa to life in *Rock n' Roll Santa*. Tickets are \$10

Contact: 734-751-7057; inspiretheatre.com

NEW FILMS

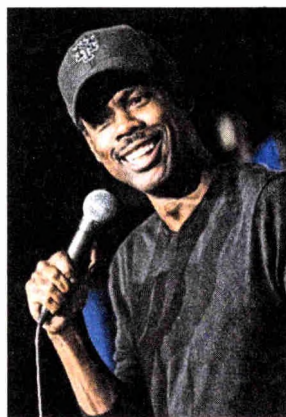
Opening Friday, Dec. 12

» *The Captive*: In this psychological thriller from director Atom Egoyan, Matthew (Ryan Reynolds) steps briefly into a diner and comes out to find that his young daughter Cassandra has vanished without a trace from the back of his truck. Her unsolved abduction destroys his once-happy relationship with his wife, Tina (Mireille Enos), who suspects her husband of foul play. Years later, when detectives Nicole (Rosario Dawson) and Jeffrey (Scott Speedman) discover recent images of Cassandra online, Matthew risks everything to ensure his daughter's safe return. Rated R.

» *Exodus: Gods and Kings*: Using state-of-the-art visual effects and 3D immersion, director Ridley Scott brings new life to the story of the defiant leader Moses (Christian Bale) as he rises up against the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses (Joel Edgerton), setting 600,000 slaves on a monumental journey of escape from Egypt. Rated PG-13.

» *Top Five*: Written, directed, and starring Chris Rock, the film tells the story of New York City comedian-turned-film star Andre Allen, whose unexpected encounter with a journalist forces him to confront the comedy career and the past that he left behind. Also starring Rosario Dawson, Gabrielle Union, Cedric The Entertainer, J.B. Smoove, Tracy Morgan, Kevin Hart, Anders Holm, Jay Pharoah, Michael Che, Sherri Shepherd and Leslie Jones. Rated R.

» *Wild*: Directed by Jean-Marc Vallée and starring Reese Witherspoon, the film brings bestselling author Che-



SUBMITTED

Comedian Chris Rock wrote, directed and stars in "Top Five," which tells the story of a comedian-turned film star. It opens Friday, Dec. 12.

ryl Strayed's adventure to the screen. After years of reckless behavior, a heroin addiction and the destruction of her marriage, Strayed makes a rash decision. Haunted by memories of her mother Bobbi (Laura Dern) and with absolutely no experience, she sets out to hike more than a thousand miles on the Pacific Crest Trail all on her own. Opening exclusively at the Maple Theatre in Bloomfield Township. Rated R.

Opening Wednesday, Dec. 17

» *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*: The film brings to an epic conclusion the adventures of Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) and the Company of Dwarves. The Dwarves of Erebor have reclaimed the vast wealth of their homeland, but now must face the consequences of having unleashed the terrifying Dragon, Smaug, upon the defenseless men, women and children of Laketown. Directed by Peter Jackson. Rated PG-13.

Opening Friday, Dec. 19

» *Annie*: Quvenzhané Wallis stars as Annie, a young, happy foster kid who's also tough enough to make her way on the streets of New York in 1933. It's a hard knock life with her mean foster mom Miss Hannigan (Cameron Diaz), but everything's about to change when the hard-nosed tycoon and New York mayoral candidate Will Stacks (Jamie Foxx) makes a thinly-veiled campaign move and takes her in. Also stars Rose Byrne, Bobby Cannavale, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, and David Zayas. Directed by Will Gluck. Rated PG.

» *Foxcatcher*: Based on true events, the film tells the dark story of the unlikely and ultimately tragic relationship between an eccentric multimillionaire and two champion wrestlers. When Olympic Gold Medal winning wrestler Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum) is invited by wealthy heir John du Pont (Steve Carell) to move on to the du Pont estate and help form a team to train for the 1988 Seoul Olympics at his new state-of-the-art training facility, Schultz jumps at the opportunity, hoping to focus on his training and finally step out of the shadow of his revered brother, Dave (Mark Ruffalo). Rated R.

» *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb*: Larry (Ben Stiller) spans the globe, uniting favorite and new characters while embarking on an epic quest to save the magic before it is gone forever. Starring Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, Owen Wilson, Steve Coogan, Ricky Gervais, Dan Stevens, Rebel Wilson, Ben Kingsley. Directed by Shawn Levy. Rated PG.



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Buffet Lunch • Adults \$11.95
Children 10 & Under \$6.95
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Craft Beer Dinner Thurs., Dec. 11 • 7pm
5 Course Dinner with Craft Beer
Tastings to Accompany Each Course
\$30 per person • Reservations Required

Holiday Brunch Buffet Sun., Dec. 21 • 11:30am & 1:30pm Seatings
Featuring Breakfast, Salad, Entree (including Prime Rib, Spiral Ham, Roast Turkey) & Dessert Stations.
Adults \$21.95 • Children 4-10 yrs. \$8.95
3yrs & Under Free
Reservations Recommended

New Year's Eve Dinner Wed., Dec. 31
Prime Rib Dinner, Baked Potato, Fresh Vegetable & Salad.
12 Oz. \$14.99 • 16oz. \$18.99
Live Music • \$2 Off Bottles of Wine
Reservations Recommended

Saugatuck Brewery Tap Takeover Fri., Jan. 9
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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Scoop wants you to share your holiday photos. You could win a \$25 gift card to Toys R Us. Just submit your photo and have your parents include your phone number, age, community of residence, and name of each person in the photograph.

Scoop's Craft Corner:

Make Your Own Christmas Tree Ornament

Material Needed:
 2 Cups of Flour
 1 Cup Salt
 ¾ to 1 cup Water
 Food Color (optional)

Instructions:
 Mix together flour and salt. Slowly add water and stir until you get a clay consistency. You can add food color if you'd like. Once completely mixed together create your desired shape. Don't make it too thick to avoid cracking. Make a small hole in your creation for a ribbon or ornament hook. Bake in a 250 degree oven for about 1 hour. You may need to vary your time based on thickness of your creation. After baking let the ornament cool. Now decorate your creation using glitter, paint, and decoupage and more.



12 Days of Christmas

- SONG
- TWELVE
- PARTRIDGE
- PEAR TREE
- TURTLE DOVES
- FRENCH HENS
- CALLING BIRDS
- RINGS
- GEESE
- LAYING SWANS
- SWIMMING MAIDS
- MILKING LADIES
- DANCING LORDS
- LEAPING PIPERS
- PIPING DRUM
- HOLIDAY

C	L	O	R	D	S	P	Q	A	X	C	D	L	R
A	T	U	R	T	L	E	D	O	V	E	S	E	V
L	B	W	D	R	D	A	N	S	I	N	G	A	L
L	P	G	E	V	X	R	Y	F	G	J	E	P	A
I	I	A	J	L	K	T	U	I	N	H	E	I	D
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R	P	W	F	F	A	I	D	A	I	L	O	N	Y
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S	P	O	O	N	D	I	P	K	E	O	R	R	F
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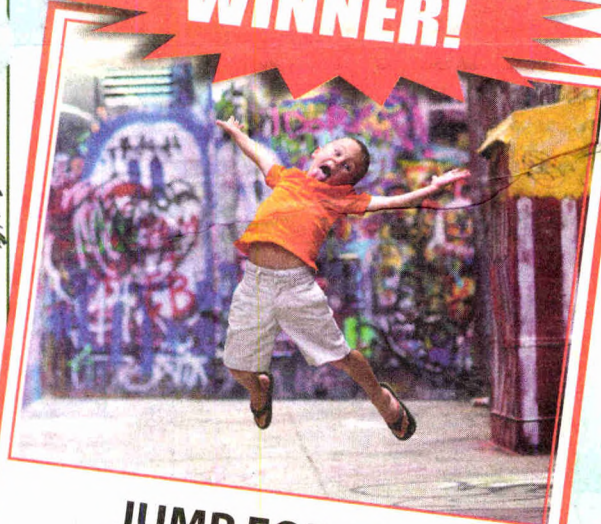


Did You Know?
 THIRTY-FOUR TO THIRTY-SIX MILL CHRISTMAS TREES ARE PRODUCED FOR THE HOLIDAY EACH YEAR.



Courtesy of Metro Creative

WINNER!



JUMP FOR JOY CONTEST WINNER

Camden Pinter of South Lyon, age 6, jumps for joy at Graffiti Alley in Ann Arbor. He won a \$25 gift certificate to Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Vladimir Spisak | Livonia | 12/2 |
| Camden Orley | Plymouth | 12/17 |
| Carly Greifenbergs | Farmington Hills | 12/19 |
| Kamar Taylor | Inkster | 12/19 |
| Antonio Biggs | Livonia | 12/22 |
| Mark Szetela | Novi | 12/23 |
| Michael Brooks | Detroit | 12/25 |
| Damien Dailide | Canton | 12/27 |

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Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions?
 Email: cbjordan@michigan.com

Join Scoop's Birthday Club!

Name: _____
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 *Parent's Signature: _____

Fill out the form and have your parents fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

* Required for Birthday Club

Share your talent!



Adriana Nadong of Livonia, age 6 shares her artistic talent.



Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about? Share your talent with us. We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight.

Deadline for submissions:

Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 29725 Hudson Drive, Novi, MI 48377

All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric by close of the business day on

December 31

or email your information to: cbjordan@michigan.com. Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.